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THE TIMES

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45p

Business as usual for tourists as smoke clears from Windsor Castle



Added attraction: overseas visitors ignoring the drizzle as they queue yesterday for entrance to the castle. But tourists were steered away from areas damaged by fire, smoke and water

Stroke of luck saves most of collection

UNDER a dreary November drizzle, the north-east corner of Windsor Castle's upper ward looked sad and derelict (Alan Hamilton writes). Its entire roof and many windows are gone, there are scars of soot on its otherwise clean stonework, and blackened debris up to 6ft deep lies on the floor, open to the sky.

A fire investigation team from Berkshire fire service has been working among the debris all weekend, but so far all that is known for certain about the origins of the blaze is that it started in the private chapel within Chester Tower, and that electrical work was in progress in the area as part of a rewiring programme throughout the castle.

Buckingham Palace admitted yesterday that an enormous stroke of luck had limited what would otherwise have been a major tragedy for the Royal Collection, probably the finest assemblage of art in private hands in the world.

Almost all the rooms in the area of the fire had been emptied of most of their contents, in some cases only the day before, in preparation for painting, decorating and renovation work.

The main losses are Beechey's enormous painting, over 16ft long and 13ft high, of George III reviewing his troops, a Regency sideboard of the 1820s, and several pieces of porcelain. The painting and sideboard were too big to move when the fire started, but almost every other object in the vicinity was taken out at great speed by human chains in a well co-ordinated salvage operation.

A large carpet from the Great Exhibition of 1851 was partly, but not irretrievably, damaged. Several chandeliers crashed to the ground as

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Typhoid confirmed in Bosnia

FROM REUTERS
IN SARAJEVO

THE World Health Organisation has confirmed cases of typhoid in the western Bosnian town of Travnik, where thousands of refugees are under threat from a Serb offensive, United Nations sources said yesterday.

Evidence of the highly infectious disease has also been found in Jajce, which has been captured by Serb forces, and in Zenica and Kakanj, the sources added. The extent of the outbreak was not known, but it will alarm aid workers trying to deal with a tide of displaced people driven from their homes in Bosnia by the war, many of them now living in makeshift conditions.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo radio made no mention yesterday morning of the military situation around Travnik, where Serbs launched a big offensive on Friday. But it said that three civilians and a soldier were killed in Serb shelling of the northern town of Gradacac on Saturday night.

Radio messages from Srebrenica said that 70,000 residents and refugees trapped by Serb forces were in danger of starvation.

ERM turmoil hits Major summit hopes

BY NICHOLAS WOOD AND
GEORGE BROCK

JOHN Major today embarks on a hectic round of shuttle diplomacy in an attempt to salvage some credit for Britain's EC presidency in the run-up to the Edinburgh summit next month.

The prime minister's difficulties in his quest for European unity were compounded at the weekend by the third realignment of the European exchange-rate mechanism in two months. With French resistance to the farm subsidy deal agreed on Friday and the deepening crisis over ratifying the Maastricht treaty, the summit promises to be one of the most strained in the Community's history.

Today, Mr Major and Norman Lamont begin their efforts in Brussels. Mr Lamont will chair a meeting of finance ministers, which will consider how to solve the problems of the ERM, and proposals for boosting economic growth, while the prime minister will be seeing his Belgian counterpart, Jean Luc Dehaene as part of a tour aimed at securing Community-wide ratification of the Maastricht treaty.

Community officials had hoped that the devaluation of

Another hectic week tackling European problems looms for John Major as the Edinburgh summit approaches. Currency markets too are braced for more violent fluctuations

the Spanish and Portuguese currencies would end the currency turbulence once and for all, but independent economists said the move was not enough to precipitate the German interest rate cut seen as vital to relieving long-term currency pressures. The Irish government, facing a general election on Wednesday, decided to risk trying to defend its currency in spite of widespread views that it is overvalued, but it is likely to come under heavy pressure when markets open today. Speculators are also likely to attack the Danish krone. Analysts said the pound was unlikely to be affected, although it may fall as a result of poor October trade figures out today.

The continuing instability of the ERM temporarily eases pressure on Britain to return to the system it left in September, and a British official said yesterday that Mr Major took the latest devaluations as evidence for his view that "the

ERM is a less than perfect system". But it also means that it may be even more difficult for the prime minister to sell the Maastricht treaty to his backbenchers and to find a compromise that will lead to Danish ratification.

Denmark wants a British-style opt-out from monetary union and the latest wave of turbulence is likely to intensify its demands. But other EC states are reluctant to make such a far-reaching concession, which could lead to the unravelling of the treaty.

The stakes for Mr Major are high. All presidencies need to show a positive balance sheet at the end of their six-month tenure, but Britain has failed to broker any important agreement apart from Gatt - which is still liable to upset - and the completion of the single market. Even the London conference on Yugoslavia has failed to bring peace.

The government has been taken back by recent wide-

spread criticism of the British presidency, coming not only from France - where it is explained by the opposition to the Gatt deal - but from Britain's traditional friends such as The Netherlands.

The ERM arguments are unlikely to receive more than a passing mention in Edinburgh: a British official explained that since the summiters would not agree on the future of the system, the question would be kept well off the agenda. The finance ministers will consider the ERM today, but the detail is being left to officials who are to report by next May.

The ministers will, instead, turn their minds to boosting economic growth. Aides to Jacques Delors have for weeks been working on a scheme for the community to borrow funds that could be lent to member states to finance road and rail links, particularly between western and eastern Europe. The draft scheme assumes that the EC can borrow money more cheaply than individual states and that such loans would not necessarily have to expand a government's public borrowing requirement.

Mitterrand resists, page 11
Punt pressure, page 40

MPs ask Queen to foot the bill

BY ALAN HAMILTON

AS firefighters yesterday kept watch to douse the last dying embers of Friday's blaze at Windsor Castle, the question of who should pay for a restoration that will run into tens of millions of pounds flared into life. Offers of money and expertise poured in to help rebuild the damaged apartments of one of the world's best-known buildings, but backbench MPs called on the Queen to contribute from her own resources.

Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary, has indicated that the government will fund the repair of the building's fabric, which will account for the vast majority of any restoration project. He is expected to make a statement in the Commons today.

Sir David Mitchell, Conservative MP for North-West Hampshire, and Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West, were among MPs who suggested yesterday that the Queen should fund restoration work at least in part.

Buckingham Palace pointed out that as nominal owner of the world's greatest private art collection, the Queen already paid for the care and maintenance of the paintings and other works of art in her care, partly from her private funds. That arrangement would almost certainly continue in restoring the relatively small number of works which

suffered damage from smoke, heat or water.

Officials of Berkshire County Council will meet members of the Royal Household today to suggest setting up a public fund to aid restoration.

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Two British skiers killed in French Alps avalanche

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

TWO British students were among seven skiers killed as an avalanche swept down a piste in Europe's highest ski resort at the weekend.

Roderick Arkell, 22, of Tyne and Wear, and Christopher Maxwell, 21, from Bristol, were almost at the end of the black-classified Beranger run in Val Thorens in the French Alps when tons of wet snow slipped from a peak and caught them with ten others sliding down one of the Alps' most spectacular mountains.

The two Britons were among a party of ski enthusiasts from the National Institute of Applied Sciences in

Lyon who had arrived by bus a few hours earlier for a day in the 7,500ft resort.

François Gros, director of tourism for the area, said: "It was actually quite a small avalanche, and made no noise. Had it happened a few hours later no-one would have taken any notice of it at all. It is a terrible incident, and the first at the resort since it was opened 20 years ago. We are all very upset."

"Local staff immediately called for help on their mobile telephones, but despite help from the French ski team, who were near by, and dozens of other expert rescuers, sadly

seven people died." The other victims included an Australian and a French boy aged 10.

Val Thorens is the newest resort in the *trois valles* region. Skiing is possible throughout the year in the glaciers above the 13 hotels and 42 blocks of flats which can cater for up to 18,000 skiers at a time.

Snow often comes early to the region and over the past two weeks the main pistes, which range from the nursery slopes to some of the most challenging in the Alps, have been covered to more than 3ft. More snow fell on Saturday.

Continued on page 2, col 3

IRA claims man shot in head was paid informer

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE IRA claimed that a man found shot dead in Londonderry early yesterday morning had worked as a paid informer for British intelligence for more than ten years.

John Gerard Holmes, 34, known as Gerry Holmes, was on bail awaiting trial on fraud charges connected with an alleged car insurance swindle. He was found dead by a security force foot patrol at 2am in an alley in the republican Creggan area of the city. He had been shot in the head.

The IRA said he had been under interrogation since disappearing on Tuesday from his home in the Waterside area of Londonderry. Hours before his body was found, a

tape detailing his alleged "crimes" was pushed through his letterbox. The IRA said in a statement to a local journalist that he was recruited by British intelligence in 1981 after involvement in a Post Office robbery.

It claimed he had been in regular contact with his handlers and received a large sum of money for information which led to the arrests of a number of IRA members and the seizure of arms and explosives.

The IRA said Holmes, although aware of an amnesty it had offered for informers to come forward, had carried on working because he felt he would not be caught.

هكزامن الاصل

Arms-for-Iraq debate

Labour puts government in the dock with Clark

Michael Heseltine, who is fighting back in the arms-for-Iraq affair, will accuse the Opposition today of sensationalised attempts to anticipate the enquiry

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR served notice yesterday that it would not be satisfied with any attempt by the government to push blame for the arms-for-Iraq affair on to Alan Clark, the former trade minister.

It seems to me wholly incredible that Alan Clark alone subverted the whole of government policy on the export of arms to Iraq when we have pages of evidence showing that a dozen ministers had meetings and correspondence on the issue.

Mr Cook, who will lead the Opposition onslaught on the government's conduct since the ending of the Iran/Iraq war in 1988, said the debate would force ministers to answer the questions they have been dodging.

He wanted to know: why they armed Saddam Hussein, a "brutal megalomaniac"; why they covered up their actions from the public and Parliament; and why as the cover-up continued they were prepared to see innocent men go to jail rather than own up.

Evidence given by Mr Clark led to the collapse earlier this month of the trial of three former executives of Matrix Churchill, the Coventry machine tools company accused of illegally exporting arms-making machinery to Iraq. The police have been asked to investigate "inconsistencies" in his testimony.

John Major and other ministers have maintained repeatedly that the government abided by guidelines drawn up in 1985 banning the sale of arms-making machinery to Iraq. However, documents released at the trial have called those statements into question by indicating that the guide-

lines were eased secretly in late 1988 and that ministers applied them more leniently in the period before the Gulf war in August 1990.

The documents also suggest that 14 days before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, a cabinet committee chaired by Douglas Hurd agreed to relax them further. This decision was neither announced nor implemented because it fell with the outbreak of hostilities.

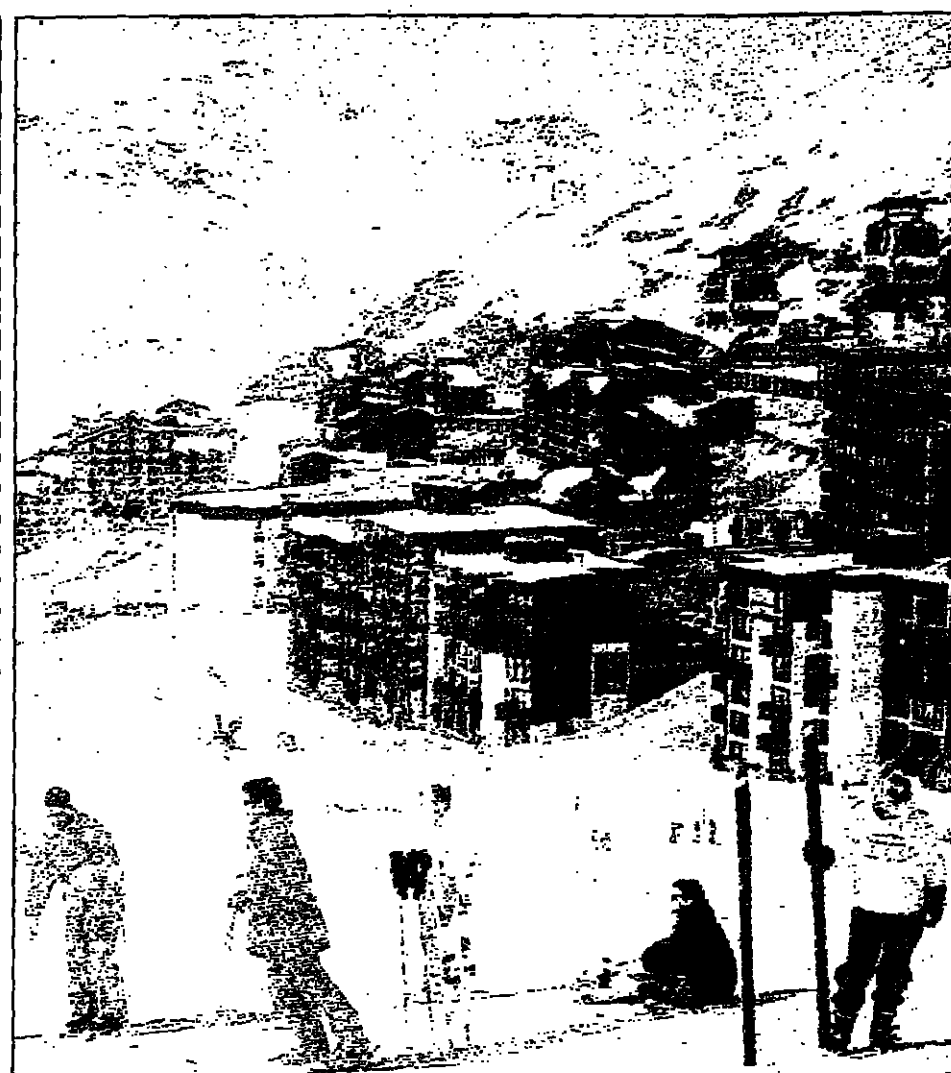
It is understood that Mr Cook is unlikely to produce much in the way of new evidence today, although his case was boosted yesterday by a report in *The Sunday Times* quoting Mark Higgs, a former Foreign Office official, as saying that civil servants secretly approved sales of arms-making equipment to Iraq. However, Mr Cook is expected to highlight what appear to be differences between the government's private and public stances.

Mr Heseltine, one of four ministers who signed certificates seeking to ban the release of 500 pages of confidential Whitehall minutes, will speak in support of a government amendment accusing the Opposition of "sensationalised attempts" to anticipate the findings of the independent enquiry under Lord Justice Scott.

The amendment says the government granted export licences "in accordance with guidelines which had as their overriding consideration not to supply any lethal equipment". Mr Clark destroyed the prosecution case in the trial when he contradicted his earlier statements to Customs officials that he was unaware of the possible military applications of the Matrix Churchill machinery.

John Major has said that it was only when Mr Clark gave evidence at the Old Bailey trial that it became apparent that there were inconsistencies in his account. The prime minister has not accepted that Mr Clark's testimony proved that the guidelines had been breached.

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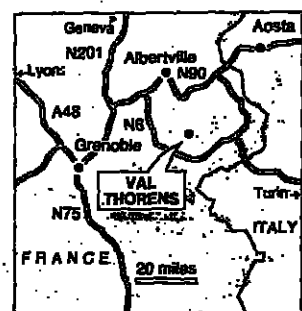
Snow victims: the Val Thorens resort, and Mr Maxwell (top) and Mr Arkell, who were among those killed

Two Britons killed in French Alps avalanche

Continued from page 1

but the temperature had risen suddenly, leading, it is believed, to the slippage. The resort formally opened to skiing on October 24 and, although it was closed yesterday as a mark of respect, it will stay open to May 9.

M. Gros said that explosive charges were set off at 8am on Saturday to dislodge any hanging snow which might pose a threat, but nothing had moved. More explosives were due to have been set off later on Saturday evening. Heavy snow was falling at the time of the avalanche, and police and mountain experts are trying to



establish whether the fall was caused naturally or by someone skiing 'off-piste'. Mr Arkell, from Rowlands Gill, Co Durham, was studying engineering at Sheffield

University and had joined an international group of students travelling to Val Thorens by coach to take advantage of what appeared to be excellent skiing conditions before the season gets fully under way early next month.

Last night his father, Richard, 46, a council planning officer, was flying out formally to identify the body. "Rod was an absolutely splendid young man," a neighbour, James Longrigg, a senior classics lecturer at Newcastle University, said. "He was sponsored by British Rail and was delighted when he got his

place at university — his parents were very proud of him."

Christopher Maxwell, a keen skier, was at Nottingham University on a year's exchange to the University of Lyon. His father Robert Maxwell, 51, a retired personnel manager of Stoke Bishop, Bristol, said: "Chris had such a bright future. He loved sports. He was a very keen and accomplished sportsman and had skied several times before." He had completed two years of a civil engineering course at Nottingham University, before going to Lyon for a year.

Waldegrave puts 40,000 jobs on line

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 40,000 Whitehall jobs could be privatised under government plans to increase the amount of civil service work done by commercial firms.

William Waldegrave will announce details on Wednesday of plans for £1.5 billion of business on which he hopes to save the taxpayer about £400 million a year from 1994. Staff will be encouraged to bid for contracts as in-house teams or through management buy-outs. The largest part of the programme will be in information technology services, including the running of the 12 big computers holding Inland Revenue data.

Core civil service functions, such as statistics and the Treasury's economic model, as well as traditional activities, are to be opened to outside competition. The citizen's charter minister will set out his proposals in a white paper that will also put the performance of public bodies, such as British Rail and the health service, under the spotlight. Mr Waldegrave will report on their success in meeting service targets under the citizen's charter.

BR and, to a lesser extent, the NHS have failed to achieve all that was asked of them. BR faces criticism over reliability and punctuality, and not all parts of the NHS have treated patients within maximum waiting times.

Labour victory on right to buy homes

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR MPs are jubilant after winning victories for tenants at the expense of landlords during parliamentary scrutiny of the government's leasehold reform.

The alliance of Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs, backed by a group of Conservative backbenchers, has driven Sir George Young, the housing minister, into promising concessions that will force more landlords to sell.

As MPs finish the detailed examination this week on the leasehold reform clauses in the housing and urban development bill, the key reason for the landlords' plight appears to be the weighting of the committee, which was picked by whips.

Although it has a Conservative majority, none of the Tory backbench MPs who spoke out strongly against the measure in the Commons has been included. However, Dudley Fishburn, the Conservative MP for Kensington, a lessee of the Grosvenor Estates and a campaigner for leasehold reform, is a member. The only Tory to voice concern for landlords was Peter Ainsworth, the new Tory MP for East Surrey.

At one point in the committee hearings John Battle, Labour's housing spokesman, warned Sir George that he faced defeat if he forced an Opposition amendment to the vote because Labour was backed by four Conservative MPs who have all declared interests as holding leases.

They are Sir Paul Beresford (Croydon Central), Mr Fishburn, Gary Streeter (Plymouth Sutton) and Nigel Waterson (Eastbourne).

The bill gives an estimated 750,000 tenants with leases of more than 21 years the right to buy the freehold at below market prices where at least two-thirds of a block is let. Mr Ainsworth persuaded the committee to agree an amendment to stop speculators leasing several flats in a block so that they can take advantage of the legislation.

The combination of Tory and Opposition MPs has persuaded ministers to review the low rent test and to give more leaseholders the right to buy their properties. Under the test, ground rents must be £1,000 or less to qualify.

In addition, Sir George has promised to look again at the disqualification from the right to buy for tenants in properties where more than 10 per cent of their block is used for non-residential purposes, usually as shops or offices. Mr Fishburn wants the proportion to be increased to 20 per cent, to extend buying rights to smaller blocks which have flats on the ground floor.

Swapping redundancies among senior levels of the Labour party organisation will be delayed until December or January, it emerged yesterday. A final report on how the party is to cut spending by 30 per cent next year is due to be presented to the national executive on Wednesday.

Retirement review to be 'unpopular'

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PETER Lilley, the social security secretary, yesterday fuelled speculation that the government intended to raise the state retirement age for women from 60 to 65 by admitting that the outcome of the pensions review would not be universally popular.

A final decision will not be made until next year, but the minister admitted that equalising retirement ages for men and women was a "major nettle" that the government would have to grasp.

Mr Lilley is considering responses to a consultation paper floating the options of a common retirement age of 60, 63 or 65. He indicated that, with state borrowing projected to reach £44 billion next year, he might have to take the least costly route. Making women work until 65 would save the Treasury £3 billion a year. "Financial implications will be an important factor we will take into account," he said.

Mr Lilley told BBC Television's *On the Record* that any changes would be introduced gradually, "probably in the next century", and said: "It is sensible to reach a decision on a uniform pension age, but I don't kid myself that any conclusion we reach will be universally popular. It won't."

Alf Morris, a former Labour social security minister, said: "Mr Lilley won't be grasping a nettle so much as putting his hand into a beehive."

Academic condemns church leadership

Failure to recognise the costs to the Church of England of the legislation to ordain women priests was condemned yesterday by Canon Geoffrey Rowell, fellow and chaplain of Keble College, Oxford (Ruth Gledhill writes). He was speaking only hours after the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, said: "There should be no discrimination in selection for the priesthood or episcopate against those opposed to the ordination of women."

Dr Rowell called on the church leadership to "recognise the nature of the grief and bereavement" of those opposed to women priests. He said: "Words like bereavement, divorce, semi-divorce, occur time and time again. There is a deep sense of loss and bewilderment and numbness." He condemned "a failure of statesmanship in not recognising what would be the likely cost of this legislation."

The Ven George Austin, Archdeacon of York, preaching at York Minster, criticised as patronising the frequent offers by supporters of women priests to "share the pain" of those against. "We were dismissed as woman-haters, repressed homosexuals... sufferers from psychological hang-ups."

Woman driver hijacked

A young woman motorist was hijacked at knifepoint during rush-hour traffic and told she was going to be raped, police disclosed yesterday. The woman, 22, had been waiting in traffic in Morden, Surrey, when a man opened the passenger door and climbed into the car, threatened her with a craft knife and told her where to drive to, police said. She tried to attract attention by sounding her car horn twice and slamming on her brakes. The man eventually ordered the woman to park behind a van, where she was told to recline her seat. It was then that she managed to escape and ran down the road, screaming. The man with the knife ran off in the opposite direction.

FBI searches for letters

A missing briefcase said to contain personal letters from the Pope and presidents Reagan and Bush may be the key to solving the mystery surrounding the death of the former spy Ian Spira, 46, his wife and their three children. His dependants were found murdered at their rented home in San Diego three weeks ago. Sheriff's, now assisted by the FBI, are searching for the briefcase that the Briton is said to have always kept with him. Speculation about Spira's death has centred on his role in Middle East hostage releases.

Drugs haul charges

Customs officers charged the captain and five crew of a ship yesterday after 20 tonnes of cannabis, worth £60 million, were seized in a raid on the North Sea. The haul was the biggest ever seized by Customs. Last year the combined weight of all seizures was 25 tonnes. Five Dutchmen and a Spaniard were due to appear before magistrates at Hull this morning, accused of possessing the drug with intent to sell it. The previous largest haul was of 20 tonnes, from a coaster in the Channel three years ago.

Navy visits Albania



A visit to Albania today will be the first by a Royal Navy ship for 54 years. HMS Gloucester, one of the Nato ships in the Adriatic enforcing a naval blockade against Serbia and Montenegro, will sail into the port of Durres. The goodwill visit is intended to improve contacts between the two countries, which resumed diplomatic relations last year.

Collector's masterly bid

An Old Master drawing bought for about £100 in a job lot at a small auction in Utrecht in 1971 is estimated to make up to £80,000 at a Christie's auction in Amsterdam tomorrow. The drawing, by Hendrick Goltzius (1588-1617), was first spotted and bought by Hans van Leeuwen, manager of the Concertgebouw Orchestra, Amsterdam, between 1947 and 1960. The Goltzius is the highlight of Mr van Leeuwen's collection of 500 Old Master and later drawings, which is expected to raise more than £500,000.

Yacht found capsized

An RAF Nimrod left Kinloss last night to search for a missing American yachtman after his boat was found capsized in the Atlantic. The 60 ft sloop *Coyote* was spotted by a freighter about 480 nautical miles southwest of Ireland. Michael Plant, 42, was en route to France for a round-the-world race from Les Sables d'Olonne in the Vendée.

Burglars hit churches

At least one in two churches are likely to be burgled next year, according to figures to be released today at the launch of a "church watch" scheme in Dorset. Church burglaries have risen by 170 per cent in three years to a record high, according to the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, which last year paid out £5 million after 8,500 break-ins.

Irish Labour party leader expects big poll gains

Dick Spring, a likely power-broker after this week's Irish general election, believes it will show that a left-right alignment is replacing historic loyalties, Edward Gorman writes

THE Irish Labour party leader yesterday predicted a decisive breakthrough in this week's general election, with gains of at least nine seats.

Dick Spring was buoyed by opinion poll findings making him by far the most popular choice as Taoiseach and showing his party at 22 per cent, up three points on last Thursday. He said the political landscape in Ireland was about to change for good.

"I have set out in the course of this election to make a plea for change, to break the mould in Irish politics, to get away from the old party alliances and alignments. 1992 is the time for the Labour party to come forward in Irish politics," he said.

Mr Spring, a former rugby international from Co. Kerry, has long argued that the old split between Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, which goes back to the foundation of the state and

the civil war, is gradually giving way to a new left-right alignment in Ireland.

He clearly believes that this election is a big step towards that new axis: after Labour may have as many as 28 seats in the 166-seat Dail compared to something like 74 for Fianna Fail, 51 for Fine Gael, five for the Progressive Democrats, four for Democratic Left and four others.

This would leave Labour in a power-broking role with Mr Spring able to choose which combination of parties would make up the next government. With support now running strongly in his favour, a coalition

with Fine Gael on its own may just be sufficient to command the Dail, though the inclusion of the Progressive Democrats is also a likely possibility.

The other obvious alternative is a deal with Fianna Fail, but that would probably require Albert Reynolds, the party leader and prime minister, to step down. It is also possible that Labour may try to fashion itself as the main opposition party and try to force others into an unwilling coalition.

Mr Spring's popularity in this campaign reflects as much his own impressive record in

the last Dail as the weakness of Mr Reynolds and John Bruton of Fine Gael, who has been entirely eclipsed by the Labour leader.

Labour's plans to increase borrowing significantly in an effort to restart the flagging economy, to convene a national forum on unemployment to strengthen the semi-state sector and to increase child benefit, has appealed to middle-class urban voters with liberal leanings. It has also led to accusations from Fianna Fail that a vote for Labour amounts to a vote for increased taxes.

The surge in Labour's popularity may not presage the kind of realignment Mr Spring hopes for, given the fact that Fianna Fail has also attracted a very large working-class vote and will continue to do so in years to come.

Opinion polls yesterday meanwhile confirmed the drift

of support away from the government's wording on the main abortion referendum which will also be held on Wednesday. The government's formulation allows for abortion in circumstances when there is a substantial risk to the life of the mother.

Until last week a clear majority — 48 per cent to 30 per cent — indicated they supported that formulation. This weekend an abrupt change became evident with a poll published yesterday showing the wording would be defeated by 43 to 35, with 22 per cent still undecided.

The news is a further blow to Mr Reynolds. It suggests the liberal view, backed by all the main parties except Fianna Fail, that the matter should be dealt with by legislation not by constitutional referendum, is now in the ascendancy. The government's wording

is opposed both by those who believe it overly restricts the legitimate grounds for abortion and by groups that believe it opens the door to abortion on demand. If the amendment is defeated on Wednesday, the next government is likely to bring in legislation in line with a Supreme Court judgment earlier this year, which allowed a 14-year-old alleged rape victim to have an abortion in England on the grounds that if denied it she might commit suicide.

Contrary to reports in Saturday's editions of *The Times*, Christopher Lloyd, survivor of the Queen's Piquette, did not suffer a suspected heart attack while on his way to survey fire damage at Windsor Castle on Friday.

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State apartments at Windsor are likely to be returned to their condition before the blaze

Drive for historical accuracy governs restoration of castle

By Alan Hamilton

AN URGENT priority in the restoration of Windsor Castle will be to put a temporary roof over the burnt-out section of the Upper Ward to keep out rain and frost that would otherwise further attack the masonry structure weakened by fire and water.

The next task will be to decide exactly how the damaged apartments should be restored. When Sir Christopher Wren's wing of Hampton Court was seriously damaged by fire in 1886, it was decided to put the state apartments back exactly as they were before the blaze, employing as far as possible Wren's authentic methods and materials, and avoiding any convenient modern substitutes. Absolute historical accuracy is the fashion in the care of heritage buildings.

But the result was more than a mere copy, it was an improvement. Painstaking historical research disclosed, for example, that in earlier renovations some of Grinling Gibbons' magnificently intricate and ornately carved limewood panels had been assembled in the wrong order, and restorers took the opportunity to put them back as their maker intended. They also cleaned off a coating of ugly yellow wax, applied in the 1930s, to reveal the full glory of the wood.

Experts are expected to meet soon to decide how Windsor's state apartments should be tackled. Many bodies will be involved, including the Department of National Heritage as paymasters of the project, English Heritage as the historical and technical authorities, and the Royal Household, including the Queen, as tenants and guardians of the building. It is most likely that a decision will be taken to return them to the state they were in before the fire, restoring Sir Jeffrey Wyatville's reconstruction for George IV in the 1820s rather than attempting a return to their original state as built for Charles II. Any attempt to

■ The £10 million spent repairing Hampton Court after the fire there in 1986 will seem insignificant by the time Windsor Castle is restored in all its glory

restore to an earlier period is made virtually impossible by the lack of detailed evidence about exactly how they looked. The zeal for historical correctness means that paintings are not regarded as sufficiently good evidence.

Restorers at Windsor will rely heavily on documentary and photographic evidence. In the case of Hampton Court, the builders, carvers and carpenters were greatly assisted by a thorough photographic survey from the 1930s.

Immediately after the Hampton Court fire, archaeologists and researchers sifted through hundreds of tons of ashes and charred debris, seeking any scrap that might be reused or copied. They even retrieved sacks of seashells, used by Wren as heat and sound insulation in the voids between floors, washed them and replaced them.

Rebuilding at Hampton Court did not begin until three years after the fire, to give the structure enough time to dry out from the thousands of gallons of firefighters' water. During that period, the main tasks were to put in place a temporary weather-tight roof like a canopy over the whole building, and to erect scaffolding to shore up the outside walls weakened by the loss of the roof and of internal joists and floors.

One major lesson learnt from the Hampton Court experience was the need for vastly improved fire protection in ancient buildings which are full of hidden voids, cavities and wall spaces, through which fire can travel at alarming speed. The restored Hampton Court roof has a series of high-tech hatches designed to open automatically at a given temperature to allow a fire to vent upwards and outwards rather than

spread horizontally. Wall spaces have been packed with fire-resistant materials, and the building is divided at regular intervals along its length by firebreaks designed to contain any outbreak in a relatively small area.

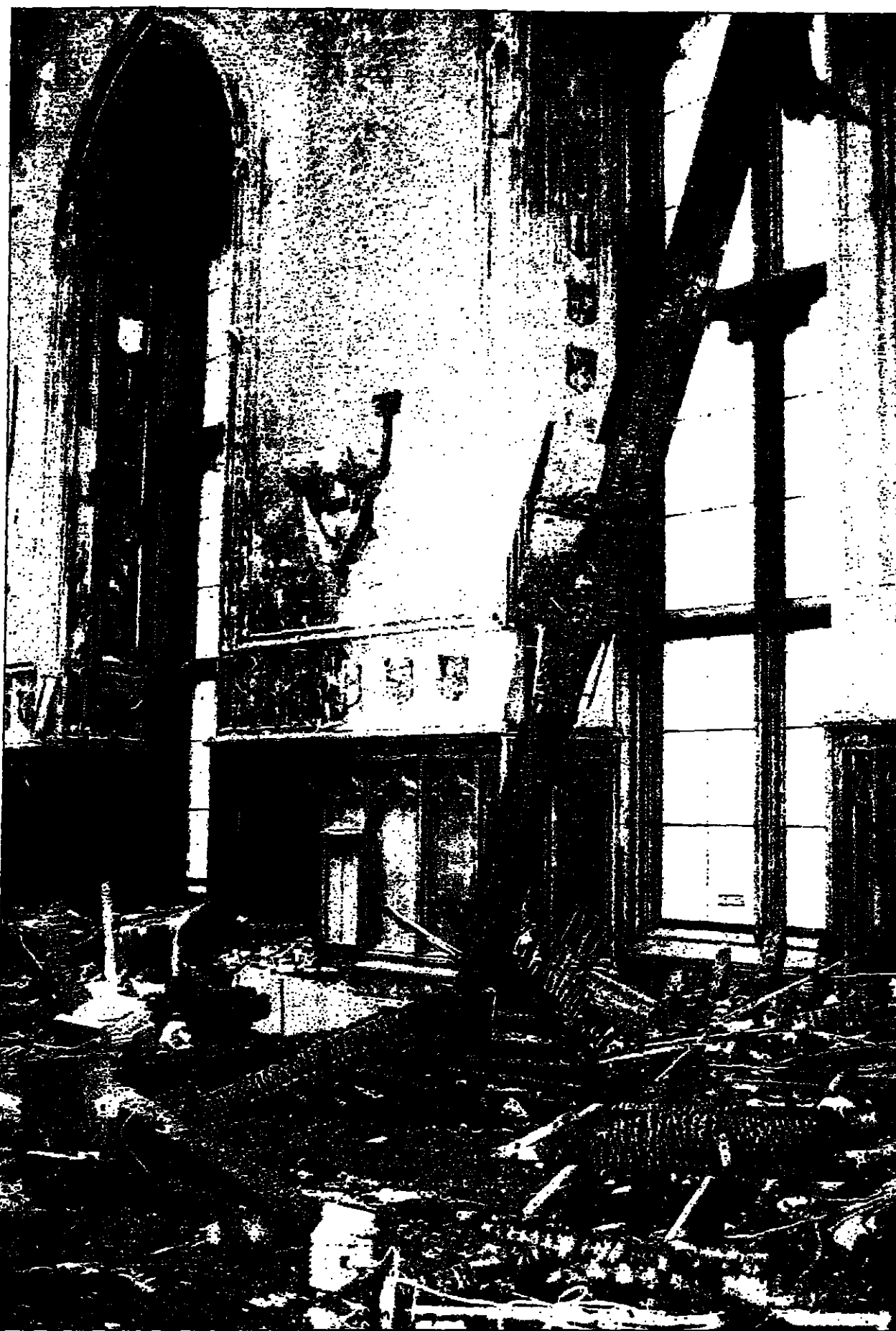
The task of reconstruction called for the creation of a large pool of skilled and specialised labour, as will Windsor Castle. Several building companies concentrate on historical renovation, and maintain their own teams of craftsmen. Hampton Court was restored by James Longley, the Sussex company, which won the contract in open tender. To repair, and in some cases copy, intricate woodcarving, some from as far away as the United States and some from English Heritage, working full-time on the project for several years.

To restore damaged paintings and other works of art, the Royal Household has a small team of experts, but other specialised bodies, such as the Hamilton Kerr Institute of picture restoration, a world leader in its field, may be called in to assist.

But the main task at Windsor is structural. An efficient salvage operation rescued most of the contents from harm.

To restore Hampton Court cost more than £10 million, paid for by the Department of the Environment on the grounds that the building was internationally important in historical and heritage terms, and loved and visited by the public. Compared with the Windsor Castle state apartments, however, even Hampton Court is insignificant on both counts, not to mention cost.

Leading article, page 17



Scene of devastation: charred beams and damaged walls in St George's Hall after flames ravaged the castle

Shortage of judges undermines High Court

By Frances Gibb
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE shortage of High Court judges, described by the Lord Chief Justice as "scandalous", has become more acute, with warnings that the commercial court, estimated to generate £500 million a year in foreign exchange, is grinding to a halt.

The senior judge in the commercial court, Mr Justice Saville, said that without urgent action to ease the shortage of judges for commercial cases, the court will lose its international reputation as the forum for resolving business disputes. He said: "The situation is grave indeed. We are likely to suffer irretrievable damage to our reputation and there are plenty of foreign competitors waiting in the wings to pick up this work."

The shortfall in the commercial court is part of a bigger problem affecting all High Court divisions and resulting in delays in some cases of nearly two years. Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, last month described the situation as "intolerable".

In a Lords debate, Lord Taylor said that by January "there will be no High Court judges available" to try civil cases. Already, most cases are handled by deputies.

Before long, Lord Taylor predicted, the situation would "truly become a national disgrace and be seen as such by the public". It would become apparent that "the system has almost broken down".

The commercial court is seen as a pioneer in cutting delays and introducing modern procedures to meet the needs of users, represented on a special committee. "The court is a prime generator of invisible earnings, which are now at risk," Mr Justice Saville says. In 80 per cent of cases, one of the parties is foreign and in more than half, both are. He said: "They come here because of our international reputation as a disputes resolution centre, and they generate not just work for City law firms and the Bar, but a huge volume of business for the nation."

Now, however, litigants face indefinite delays and are told that they cannot be given a fixed date for hearings.

Experts begin sifting embers for clues

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

INVESTIGATORS trying to discover where and how the blaze at Windsor Castle broke out last Friday face a complicated process of elimination.

Spearing the task is the Royal Berkshire Fire Brigade and an expert with the Health and Safety Executive's factories division, who were yesterday sifting through charred and smouldering rubble in the state apartments.

Keith Weston, a fire damage expert with English Heritage, said: "Fire in historic buildings normally falls into three categories: arson, electrical faults or carelessness on the part of a contractor."

A senior fire investigation officer with the London Fire Brigade added that the process of elimination was made more difficult in an historic building such as Windsor Castle because of the amount of timber cladding, expansiveness of the structure and hidden cavities. Houses with old fashioned lath and plaster walls present a similar problem as the fire travels up from one room and breaks out on a floor above.

Investigators will try to build a picture of where the fire started based on eyewitness reports of flames and smoke colour, which give an indication of the type of materials ablaze. They will also

study the timbers, as a great deal of information on a fire's origin can be divined from which timbers are charred, the depth of charring and smoke patterns left behind.

Rewiring work was being carried out at the castle, and the team will be looking to see whether any incident in that process generated a spark that ignited the fire. Once they have pinpointed the likely

starting point, they will excavate the rubble, looking for wiring or electrical items with tell-tale arc patterns that may indicate a short.

Investigators will also be carrying equipment to detect petrol, paraffin, thinners and other fuels known as accelerants. Discovery of such fuels could indicate arson, which would require the police to call in forensic scientists

from the Home Office.

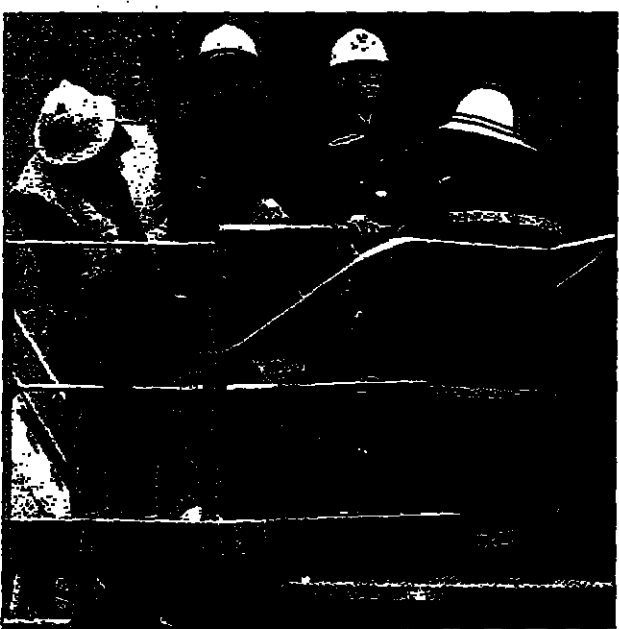
Over the coming days, Mr Weston and his English Heritage team may be called in to help to protect the state apartments in preparation for restoration.

"The building should be allowed to dry out fairly naturally, although you can use industrial fans to move the air around. If you try to accelerate it by using heaters you can cause more problems, especially with the timbers," Mr Weston said yesterday.

There are several ways in which the restored state apartments could be made less of a fire risk. If cavity walls are rebuilt, firestops made of materials such as treated wadding could slow down a future fire's spread. Doors can be split and treated with flame retardants and the roof spaces fitted with firebreaks to slow down the spread.

The installation of sprinkler systems would be unlikely to cause any more damage. In a recent study of 30,000 British fires, sprinkler systems helped to control blazes within half an hour.

Never the less, historians still take a jaundiced view of such precautions citing their unsightliness and fearing, when triggered, that their water jets could damage precious materials and art works.



Sombre visit: Prince Edward at Windsor yesterday

'Stroke of luck' saves bulk of collection

Continued from page 1
ceilings collapsed, but are said to be capable of repair. Other paintings and objects suffered varying degrees of smoke damage, but all are thought capable of being cleaned.

Sir Geoffrey de Bellaigne, director of the Royal Collection, in a preliminary report to the Queen on the damage, has openly acknowledged that the greatest loss was the fabric of the building, containing some of the grandest rooms of any palace in the world. Two were in the public area of the castle: St George's Hall, used for glittering state banquets, and the Grand Reception Room, decorated and gilded in an ornate Louis XV style.

Also destroyed was the private chapel where Queen Victoria worshipped and where succeeding generations of the royal family have been christened, confirmed or married.

The State Dining Room near by, the Octagon Room and the Crimson Drawing Room were all gutted, while the Green Drawing Room was partially damaged.

An entire corner of the Upper Ward, created by Jeffrey Wyatville for George IV out of existing but rather humble apartments built for Charles II, was destroyed, but firefighters are picking some satisfaction at their success in containing the blaze. They created firebreaks which prevented its spread into the Queen's private apartments on the eastern side of the Quadrangle, and to the State Entrance and the popular Queen Mary's Doll's House at the north-western corner.

Senior officers of Berkshire fire brigade denied reports in some newspapers yesterday

that the castle's own fire brigade, which tried to tackle the blaze in its first minutes, had been reduced in size as an economy measure.

Divisional Officer Maurice Doyle said the castle brigade consisted of a Land Rover and a pump tender, as it always had done. There had been a decision, "reciprocally", however, that, in the event of a major incident the castle brigade should concentrate more of its effort on salvage rather than attempting to deal with a big fire. But there had never been any decision to reduce the firefighting strength.

Berkshire county and Windsor district council were inundated with calls from as far away as Japan and the United States, offering money to repair the castle.

Roger Carter, chairman of Berkshire council's environ-

ment committee, said yesterday: "From the hundreds of phone calls there is obviously a desire and wish to help, and we must capitalise on that."

Council members, anxious that Windsor should not lose its enormous tourist revenue, will suggest that when repair and restoration workshops are set up on site, they should become a tourist attraction in themselves.

Yesterday morning a detachment of the Household Cavalry began to return many of the priceless treasures. Prince Edward visited the scene of the fire and was hoisted up on a hydraulic platform to look down on the gutted roof. The Prince of Wales, at church at Sandringham, told a crowd of well-wishers: "The whole family is devastated. I could not believe it had happened."

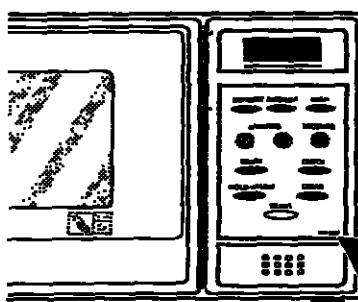
RECALL NOTICE

TRICITY BENDIX MICROWAVE OVENS

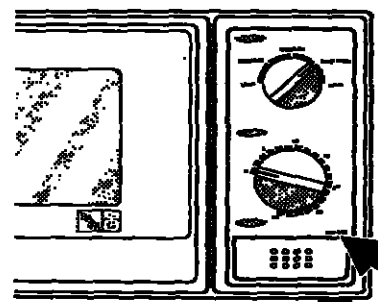
This is an important safety announcement to owners of Tricity Bendix microwave ovens

Model MT520

Model MV510



Our continuous Quality Control Programme has identified an isolated case of a wiring fault on the plug of the MT520 and MV510 microwave ovens sold in 1992.



To check whether you own one of these ovens, you will find the model number located above the 'Door Open' button at the bottom right of the control panel on your microwave, as shown here.

If you own either of the models mentioned above, please stop using the product immediately and remove the plug from the socket.

Then telephone 0800 626090 (the call is free), and we will arrange for one of the Tricity Bendix Service team to visit you to carry out a free safety check.

We have already contacted some of our customers possibly affected by this notice, and we hope to contact the remainder through this advertisement. If you have recently acted on a letter from us on this matter, then ignore this notice.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, and thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

This notice does not affect any other Tricity Bendix microwave oven or any other Tricity Bendix appliance.

Tricity Bendix, 99 Oakley Road, Luton, Bedfordshire LU4 9QQ.
Tel: 0800 626090 (Freephone) Fax: 0582 588380

مكتبة الأمل

AFTER YEARS OF EXTENSIVE RESEARCH SCIENTISTS HAVE FINALLY DISCOVERED HOW TO SURVIVE IN SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES. BREATHE.

When Man donned his first animal skin overcoat, probably a simply cut affair without lapels or pleats, he discovered a slight problem.

He perspired. This was not entirely due to personal hygiene, or lack of it, but due more to the nature of leather. Fact is, leather doesn't 'breathe' as well as other materials do, so perspiration gets trapped.

Given that the frozen Palaeolithic wasteland he called home was bereft of such niceties as central heating, this led to problem number two.

Moisture next to the skin sucks vital warmth from the body, causing frostbite, hypothermia, even death.

This was something our ancestors had to live with. But surely not us?

After all, this is the age of computers and space travel. Why shouldn't it also be the age of the leather jacket?

Absolutely. There's a company called Timberland who couldn't agree more.

We're famous for making handsewn leather boots and shoes. The kind that keep our customers' feet warm, dry and comfortable when the weather conditions are cold, wet and miserable.

Recently we came to the conclusion that our customers' bodies deserved as much protection as their feet. So now we make rugged jumpers, trousers and shirts too.

We also make a range of smart, practical leather jackets. Understandably we were keen to avoid the problem of trapped perspiration.

How did we do it? We didn't.

We talked to W.L. Gore Associates, who know as much about the very latest man-made materials as we know about leather.

They developed a remarkable new material called Gore-Tex which, they tell us, contains three billion pores per square inch. Each one of them is bigger than a molecule of perspiration, but smaller than a molecule of water.

Perspiration vapour can escape through the material, but water can't get back in. Isn't science wonderful? It certainly is.

So more often than not we use Gore-Tex as a lining, which allows your skin to breathe

naturally. If you get hot, warm vapour is forced out of the jacket and your body temperature remains as it should do, at body temperature.

there shouldn't be so much as a watermark to show for it. (If we made hats, we'd take them off to the clever folk over at 3M.)

Of course, there are some things that we don't need science to tell us.

Like double-stitching our seams with high-strength nylon thread. Making our pockets deep and roomy. Using heavy duty brass zippers that don't rust.

And because we don't have to worry about letting perspiration out, we do all we can to prevent the elements getting in.

Knitted cuffs make the arms a no-go area for snow. A drawstring around the waist closes that particular avenue to icy wind. And high, close-fitting collars deny access to the sneakiest raindrops.

Do we have any more tricks up our sleeves? Yes, acetate linings which allow your arms to move freely. And on our hoods, shearling fur trim that's electrified to fluff it up, thus providing that extra degree of protection for your face in the teeth of a biting wind.

Our full range of breathable, water resistant jackets includes bombers, field coats and storm coats for men. Parkas, bombers and field coats for women.

All of them built to our ridiculously high standards. And available to you at our ridiculously high prices. Rest assured, though, it will be a long time before any of them breathes their last.

Naturally, we don't want you to lose too much warmth. So we prevent this unnaturally with Primaloft Thermal Insulation, a synthetic fibre that'll keep you snug in any blizzard.

Keeping you dry is another of our priorities.

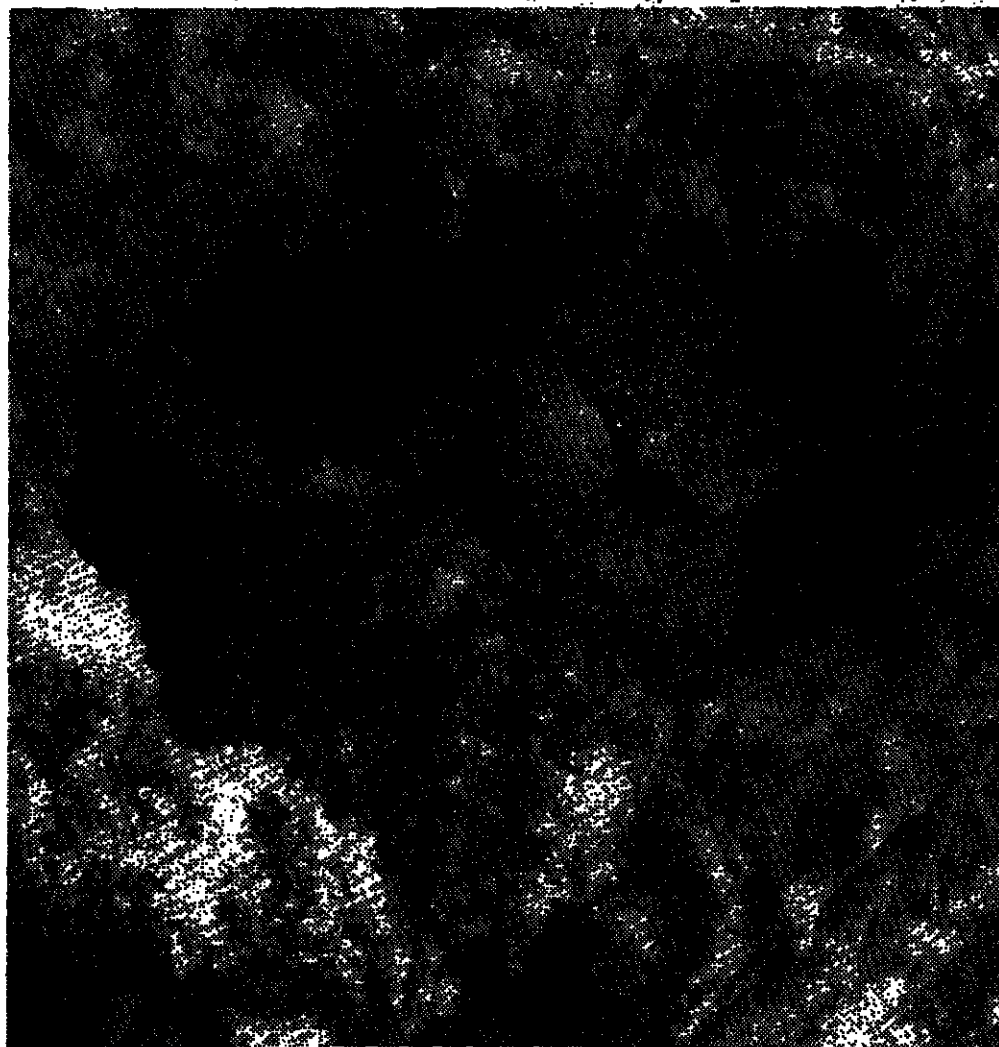
Only trouble is, traditional waterproofing treatments make leather stiff and heavy.

Which is fine if you're making a stout pair of boots. Not so fine if you're making a soft, comfortable jacket.

But what do you know? Science had the answer to this humdinger of a problem too.

It goes by the name of 3M Scotchgard. A revolutionary new treatment that makes leather completely water and stain resistant without making it as tough as old boots.

Once we dunk our hides in it our jackets can pass through a light shower and come out dry. And even after the most thorough soaking



Museum honours Carter of Egypt

By KATE ALDERSON

THE painstaking progress of Howard Carter over the 32 years between his initial visit to Egypt and the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in 1922 is traced in an exhibition at the British Museum. Carter first went to the Nile as a 17-year-old, to work as a draughtsman for the Egypt Exploration Fund, forerunner of today's Egypt Exploration Society, copying scenes from the walls of the royal tombs at Beni Hassan and showing a youthful dedication by sleeping in a bat-infested tomb. He used his watercolouring skills to make lively freehand impressions. Flinders Petrie, the "father of scientific archaeology", took the young Carter under his wing and turned him from an artist into an enthusiastic fieldworker. He made speedy progress and at 25 was one of two chief inspectors of the Egyptian antiquities service, controlling the southern part of the country, including the temples of Karnak and Luxor and the adjacent royal tombs. Where diplomacy was vital, he earned a reputation for

being quick-tempered and said: "I have a hot temper, and that amount of tenacity of purpose, which unfriendly observers sometimes call obstinacy." He was eventually to resign from his post over a fracas at the Serapeum, in which French visitors were mishandled and he supported his Egyptian staff, refusing to apologise.

Freed of the constraints of government service, he sought a patron in the Earl of Carnarvon, and the partnership led to the Tutankhamun discovery. He was contemptuous of the "connoisseurs" and said: "All sane people should dismiss such inventions with contempt."

Dr John Taylor, a curator in the Department of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum and part of the team that has been preparing the exhibition for a year, said: "It aims to show Carter the man and his other achievements which have been neglected and overshadowed by the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun." Howard Carter: Before Tutankhamun is open until May 31, 1993.



Brushing up: Lizzie Sastre prepares for her entrance as Ankhesenamun, the boy king's wife, last night

Discovery celebrated in music

By TIM JONES

A NEW musical was presented last night to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb in the Valley of the Kings.

The show, written by George Stiles and Anthony Drew, who wrote *Just So*, was produced by Imagination Entertainment and staged at the company's award-winning building in central London.

It starred Denis Quilley as Lord Carnarvon and Martin Smith as Howard Carter, who discovered the last resting place of the boy king. Lizzie Sastre played the role of Ankhesenamun, who was the wife of the boy king.

Tutankhamun will be fully developed in the next few months into what the writers and Garry Withers, the creative force behind the concept, hope will become a long running musical.

Directed by Andrew MacBean, the show had a cast of more than 20 who helped to portray the celebrated discovery.

Bragg's quango for airwaves ignored by green paper

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MELVYN Bragg's call for an "arts council of the airwaves", which would issue licence fee money to commercial television stations as well as to the BBC, will be given a lukewarm reception in today's green paper on the future of the corporation.

The proposed new quango has been described as a "Trojan horse for those who want to dismantle the corporation" by a former heritage ministry adviser in a paper published today by the European Policy Forum, an independent think tank on economic and public policy issues.

The quango is only briefly mentioned in the green paper despite growing support for it among Tories.

David Mellor, as heritage secretary, deleted all reference to such a public service broadcaster.

Clwyd gives pledge on BBC future

By OUR MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR has said it would vouchsafe the independence of the BBC's public service broadcasting and take away the licence of any ITV company that did not live up to promises of quality.

Ann Clwyd, the shadow heritage secretary, yesterday said the party's new media policy went beyond "the discredited nostrums of rampant commercialism" which characterised the 1980s. Labour would oppose any government attempts to destroy the BBC "by commercial squalor" and she said it would fight any attempts to privatise the BBC, even at its edges.

Launching the eight-point policy in Cardiff, Ms Clwyd said Labour's media strategy would reflect the pace of technological change and ensure that the widest possible spread of views was read and heard by the public. "We want broadcasters and journalists who are both fearless and indifferent to the desire of governments and of the establishment to be protected."

She said Labour's media policy would be based on the principles of freedom, the absence of censorship, the ability of the broadcasting authorities to present alternative views of the world, choice, access, quality and "accountability — not to governments but to the public."

Although Labour was against invasions of privacy, there would be no legal hiding places through privacy laws to protect public figures, including politicians. "The great and the good in our establishment must understand that the hard-hitting investigative journalism has a vital role to play in a modern democracy," she said.

Ms Clwyd also made it clear that Labour would legislate to restrict concentrated ownership of the press and television.

casting council in his original draft of the green paper. Peter Brooke, his successor, reinstated it on the advice of Damian Green, a broadcasting adviser in John Major's Downing Street policy unit.

Chris Hopson, a Conservative party member and Mr Mellor's former broadcasting advisor, said in his pamphlet, *Reforming the BBC*, that such a council would mean "death by a thousand cuts" as core funding slowly drained away from the BBC to other broadcasters.

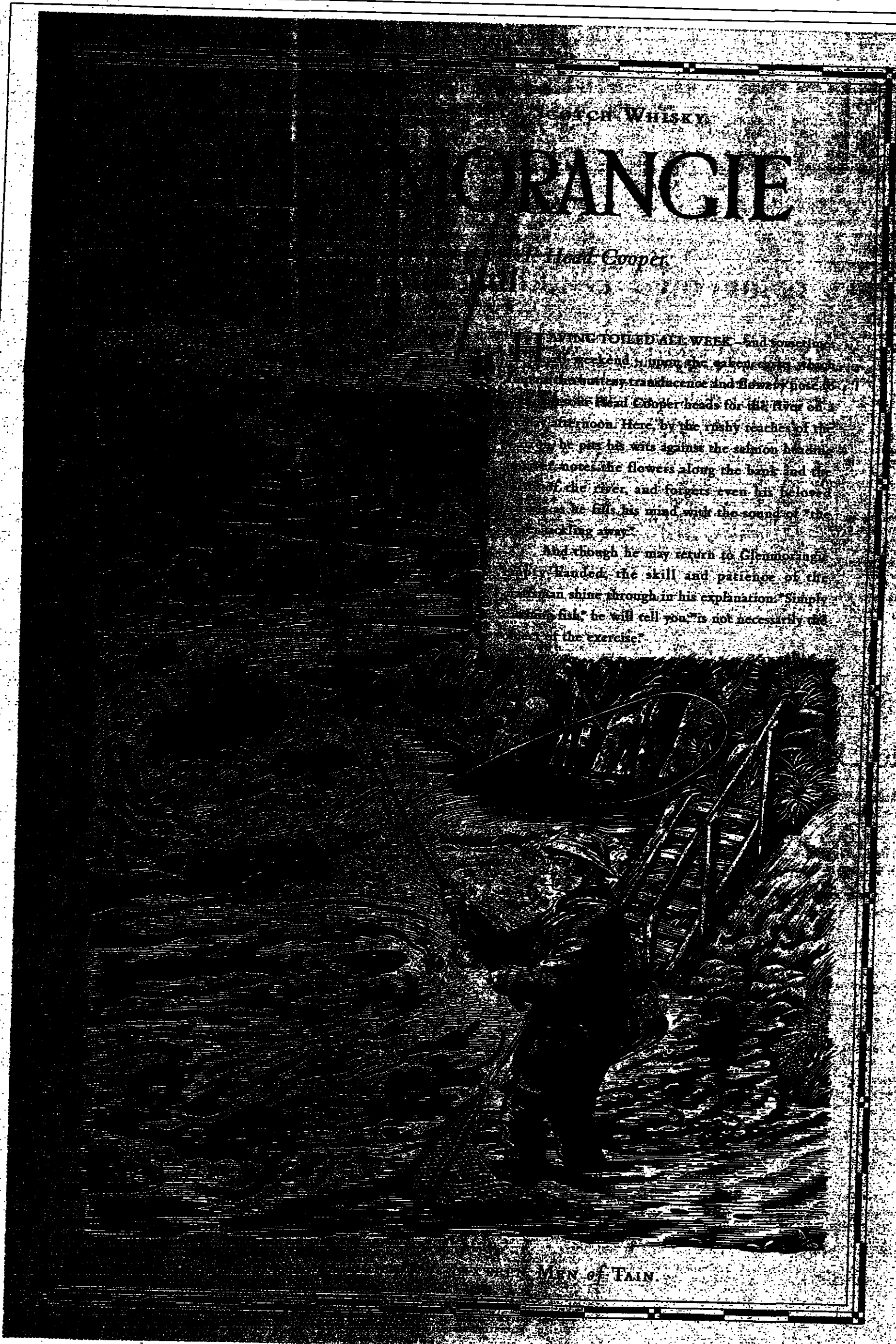
He said: "An arts council of the airwaves could not deliver diversity and choice in programming as well as the BBC. It would endanger editorial independence as programme-makers tried to second-guess the council's views. It could dilute detailed programme objectives to programme-makers."

Mr Brooke has said that the green paper will only set the terms of the debate around the renewal of the BBC's royal charter in 1996 rather than make specific policy recommendations. The government is planning a wide public consultation over the next six months. Only in late 1993 or early 1994 will it disclose its views with a white paper.

Today's green paper, in setting out all possible alternatives for funding the BBC, will offer implicit support for the continuation of the licence fee at least until the end of the decade. Advertising is rejected on the grounds that it would jeopardise the financial health of ITV and Channel 4. Doubts are also raised about whether subscription, which could cost the BBC as much as £200 million to implement, could adequately fund the whole range of BBC services. Programme budgets could suffer unless subscription charges were significantly higher than the annual £80 licence fee, and ministers fear the political consequences if viewers were suddenly asked to pay more for the same.

The case for a public service broadcasting council, first presented by the Pascock Committee six years ago, depends on the assumption that programmes can be easily categorised as public service. Mr Brooke's discussion document will say that public service broadcasting is more about a total approach, which runs through the whole of a channel's output, and that tests cannot be applied to a single programme. It will also draw attention to such practical difficulties, saying that it would be difficult for such a quango to decide between competing claims for programme money.

Many of Mr Hopson's other views will find their way into the green paper. He says that the BBC's charter should be extended for 10 rather than the usual 15 years so the government could assess whether the corporation had met targets for efficiency and accountability. He said the BBC should be set clear public targets for cost efficiency, which should be independently audited.



صكنا من الامم

Britain's under-the-counter economy is booming as shoppers spend millions on fake goods

Thousands of jobs lost by piracy on the high streets

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

BRITAIN'S manufacturing industry has lost an estimated 100,000 jobs because of profits stolen by pirates producing goods for a counterfeit industry worth at least £1 billion a year.

As pre-Christmas trading builds to a peak and amid demands for tougher controls against brand-name piracy, 129 local authorities with trading standards departments will be trying to clamp down on an under-the-counter economy which, the International Chamber of Commerce says, constitutes up to 8 per cent of all world trade.

The Home Office and the Office of Fair Trading will be reviewing respectively the results of two surveys now being undertaken by the Anti-Counterfeiting Group, an association representing the trademark owners, and the Institute of Trading Standards Administration (Itsa).

Itsa has set up a body of regional co-ordinators to collate the results of prosecutions and attack the pirates while the Anti-Counterfeiting Group is canvassing its 110 members, including multinational firms, foreign companies and trademark agents, to define the magnitude of the problem and the cost.

Pirates in Britain reproduce not just designer label clothing but everything from pharmaceuticals to motor spares, computer software to perfume,

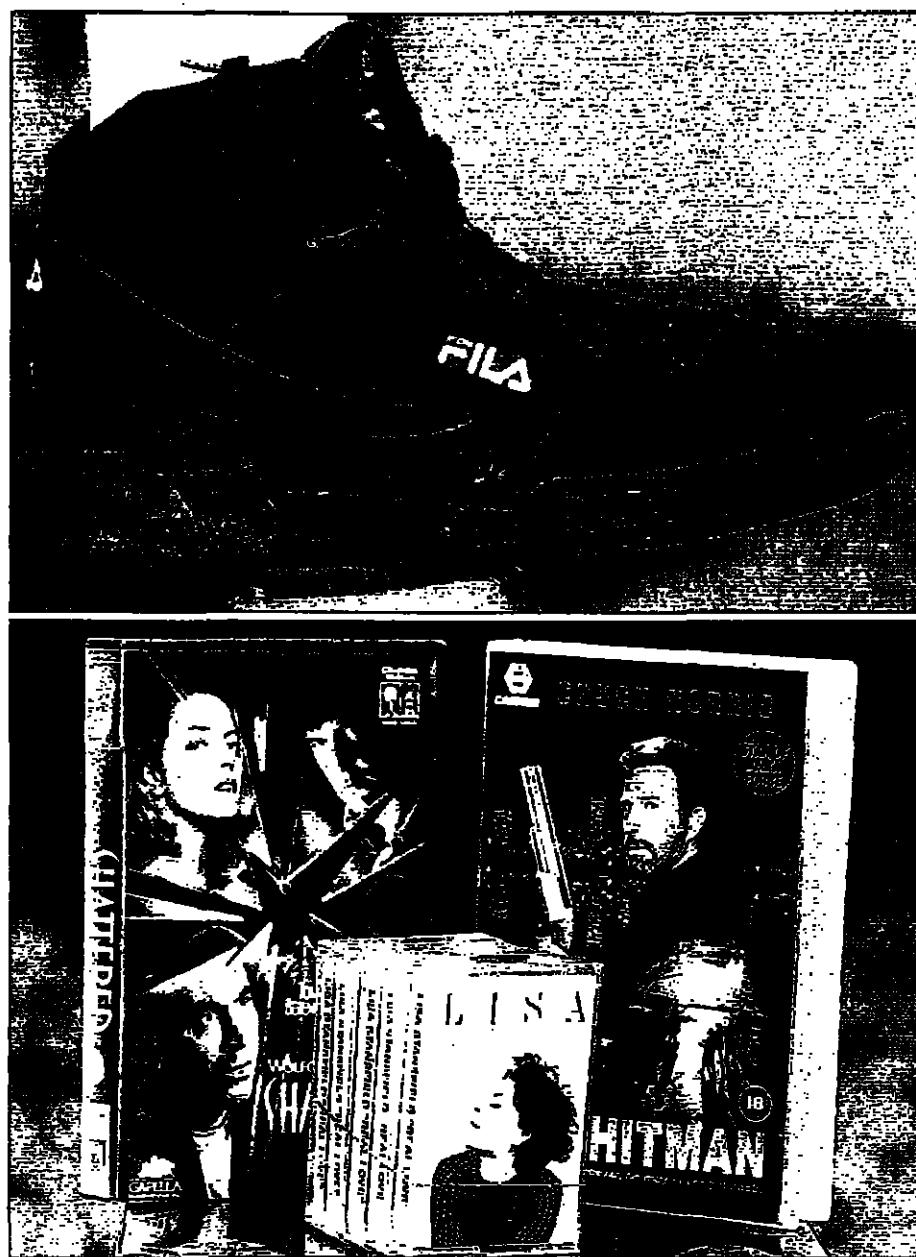
audio and video cassettes to electrical goods.

In the case of clothing, many garments are mass-produced in the Third World and legitimately exported to Britain, where they are illegally embroidered with brand-names or decorated by screen-printing methods and sold on market stalls at prices approaching their face value. The Third World is also the source of car parts and drugs in a burgeoning trade with dangerous implications for their consumers.

Anthea Worsdall, of the Anti-Counterfeiting Group, said: "It's difficult to have any accurate picture because, by its very nature, the problem is a hidden one. But our impression is that counterfeiting has grown enormously. One of the difficulties we have is that there is a perception among consumers that it doesn't matter that a T-shirt has been produced by someone other than the name on the label. But counterfeiters are not noted for paying taxes, business rates and VAT, and why should we be supporting these crooks?"

Under the 1988 Copyright, Designs and Patents Act, police have powers to search for and seize all kinds of counterfeit goods, but many companies employ private detectives to protect their designs and reputations.

The Counterfeiting Intelli-



Find the fake: all these goods bear highly popular brand names, but they are the work of counterfeiters raking in up to £1 billion a year

gence Bureau, a specialist division of the International Chamber of Commerce with a UK staff of 20 in Barking, Essex, has completed 300 successful investigations in 30 countries.

Eric Ellen, the bureau's director, said: "Counterfeiting

is absolutely rampant and it's not just confined to the Far East and countries where they needed to build up their industry. All kinds of goods are produced in the UK now and they are often associated with organised crime and drugs, so counterfeiting has

an increasingly unsavoury appearance. We are finding ourselves involved in everything imaginable from protecting the trademark on a film like *Malcolm X* to the latest designer T-shirt."

In the 12 months to March this year, customs officers

made 121 seizures of fake T-shirts, audio cassettes, car parts and watches worth £78,336 and detected 151 cases of goods bearing false origin statements. Many companies pay a small fee to register their trademarks with customs so they may be compared with goods seized as counterfeit.

With the advent of the single European market on January 1, however, and the proposed abolition of internal barriers, officers will be unable to make random checks on goods entering Britain from inside the EC.

Reactors that bred us nothing but trouble — fast

BRITAIN usually makes its energy decisions in haste, on spurious grounds, and regrets them afterwards. We built Magnox reactors because the Suez crisis imperilled our oil supplies. We built advanced gas-cooled reactors to demonstrate "British is best". We abandoned the follow-up to Sizewell, and now the British coal industry, to meet an ideological desire for "competition" in electricity privatisation. Is the government's decision to abandon work on fast reactors just another depressing example?

The nuclear pioneers in this country, in alliance with successive governments, made so many policy mistakes it is embarrassing to list them. But in the case of the fast reactor programme, they were not alone. America, the Soviet Union, France, Germany, and

■ The government's decision to abandon research on fast breeder reactors last week was not just a way to cut costs. Ministers were at last bowing to the inevitable, argues Lord Marshall of Goring



Japan as well as Britain, all launched fast reactor programmes in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

The idea of a fast reactor is very attractive. It makes more fuel than it burns up and for all practical purposes provides an energy source for mankind in perpetuity. The scarcity of uranium was a great spur for all the countries involved.

The new thermal reactors were expected to last only one generation before that scarcity made them hopelessly uneconomical. But some decades after the decision to pursue fast

reactors was made, it became clear that uranium was not scarce after all, and one of the main arguments in their favour was destroyed.

There are other, institutional, reasons why fast reactors look unpromising today. Their operation depends upon rapid reprocessing of their fuel so that plutonium can be extracted and recycled. This means that the performance of the reactor is ultimately linked to the efficiency and cost of the fuel cycle. But this is institutionally unhealthy; it means that the profitability of a reactor depends overwhelmingly on the price charged by the nuclear fuel company that is servicing the reactor.

Furthermore, the business relationship between the utility and the fuel company has to remain happy, constructive and positive for the life of the reactor; that is probably the best part of a century. That is not a sensible thing to expect even if the utility and the fuel company are owned by the same government.

If the utility makes a loss, it must sustain that loss by itself. But if the utility makes a profit, the fuel company will soon find good arguments to improve its process and charge more for its services. Recent experience demonstrates how important it is to have the

opportunity to delay reprocessing by storing spent fuel if the reprocessing charges are too high — but that defeats the entire concept of a fast reactor.

In practice, therefore, fast reactors can be rationally operated only by the reprocessing companies themselves. But BNFL in England and Cogema in France have enough problems of their own and are not likely to venture into the fast reactor business for many decades.

It is not true that a fast reactor is dangerous compared with a thermal reactor; it actually has attractive safety features. It is not true that a fast reactor produces more nuclear waste than any other nuclear system; it actually produces less. It is not even true that it produces more plutonium than thermal reactors; it actually produces less. Its merits depend upon the fact that it burns plutonium efficiently.

Its disadvantage is that it is too intimately linked to the fuel cycle and waste disposal business. That makes it unattractive to the British public and unattractive to any operating utility.

All other countries have concentrated on building water cooled reactors which were introduced first in America. In Britain we have actually

dissipated effort on Magnox reactors, on advanced gas-cooled reactors, on steam generating heavy water reactors, on high temperature reactors and fast reactors. Of all this effort, only two programmes will be or have been successful; the adaptation of American technology to British standards to build nuclear submarines and our only water-cooled reactor at Sizewell.

But Britain is not alone in pulling out of fast reactors. One by one, governments have withdrawn from this activity, some with a formal announcement, others just allowing programmes to fade away. But there is no further talk of fast reactors in the United States or in Germany. Even France, with its enormous nuclear programme, is finding it difficult to maintain enthusiasm for this technology. The big French fast reactor called Superphénix has suffered two small but embarrassing sodium leaks and now has to go through a lengthy reprocessing process. Now, only a modest fast breeder programme in Japan remains.

The government's decision to abandon work on fast reactors is sad but inevitable. In five years Britain will regret the death of the coal industry and in ten years we will regret the demise of the thermal reactor business. But we will not regret the death of fast reactors.

Lord Marshall was chairman of the CEBG 1982-9.

Leading article, page 17

Old chimneys give a lift to wind power

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

AN UNEMPLOYED steeplejack has devised a way of turning old factory chimneys and towers into wind power stations.

Steven Peace, 31, who has been working with industrial chimney designers and aerospace engineers, believes his system could be used on up to 1,000 chimneys in Britain to produce electricity for factories or to be fed into the national grid.

Unlike conventional wind turbines, the equipment attached to chimneys would require no expensive support structure and foundations. Mr Peace, from Peacehaven, East Sussex, calculates that his system might be 30 per cent cheaper than conventional land-based wind generators, taking three to five years to break even. In lower wind speed areas, the payback time might be six years.

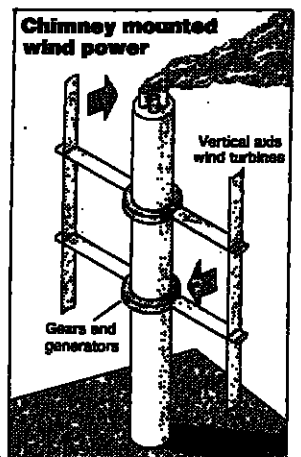
The life of the chimney turbines is expected to be between 20 to 30 years and it is proposed to make modular components so that they can be mass produced.

At the heart of Mr Peace's system is a vertical axis wind turbine, which is different from the propeller-style generators that are starting to be installed across the country. Instead of turning on its axis, it moves around its support, finding the best wind direction. Europe's biggest vertical axis machine is an experimental one operated by National

Power at Carmarthen Bay, Dyfed.

In Mr Peace's design, a doughnut-shaped frame is built around the chimney to support the blades and rotor arms and contains generators and other components.

Tall, 700ft to 800ft chimneys could have several frames, each supporting their own blades or helping to support two very large ones. These could support ten megawatts of wind power, claims Mr Peace.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Epidural jab 'a risk to babies'

Babies born to mothers who are given epidural anaesthetic injections may be at risk from heat stroke which could kill them, doctors are warning (Nick Nuttall writes).

The pain relief may lead to dangerously high temperatures in the womb because mothers retain more heat by sweating and breathing less, researchers at Charing Cross and Westminster medical school in London suggest.

They studied the temperatures of 57 mothers and babies during delivery and found that in some cases where the injections were used the babies reached temperatures which cause brain damage, convulsions and heart failure in adults.

Proud tradition

The son of one of the eight-man crew lost in the Penlee lifeboat disaster 11 years ago, Neil Brockman, 28, has become the coxswain of the replacement lifeboat, the *Mabel Alice*. He escaped death when the then coxswain, Trevelyan Richards, refused to allow two men from the same family on the boat, which was dashed against rocks.

Murder charge

A 27-year-old man is due to appear before magistrates at Huyton, Liverpool, today charged with the murder of Lisa Baylis, 20. Her strangled body was found in a lay-by on Wednesday.

Canberras go

The Royal Navy is to phase out the last three of its Canberra aircraft by Christmas and replace them with Falcons. The former RAF bombers had been used to tow targets and simulate missile attacks on ships.

Patient flees

A convicted arsonist and burglar, David Fry, 37, was on the run from Broadmoor hospital for the second time after he gave nurses the slip during a rehabilitation visit to his sister at Maidstone, Kent.

Coral discovery

Divers working on marine surveys for Devon Wildlife Trust have found a 65ft long reef of sunset coral two miles off Lyme Regis. The coral has been found only twice before off Britain and needs warmth and clean water to survive.

Fire death

A 23-month-old girl died in a house fire at Nelson, Lancashire. Her parents and four-year-old brother were rescued by firemen and suffered slight burns.

Youth killed

A boy aged 15 who was playing "chicken" with two friends was killed by a train near New Southgate station, north London.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly premium bond draw: £100,000, 7TL 593524, West Sussex (value of holding, £10,000); £50,000, 27PP 611212, Harrogate (£506); £25,000, 8DL 721830, Dover (£10,000).

Your Right to Die with Dignity

Should doctors who bring peace to dying patients be criminalised?

After all, if you were incurably ill and suffering agonies, wouldn't you like to have the choice of medical help to die with dignity?

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Write to Sir Dirk Bogarde, Voluntary Euthanasia Society, 13 Prince of Wales Terrace, London W8 5PG. Tel: 071-937 7770.

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Name

Address



Sir Dirk Bogarde

The way it isn't

CRAIG BROWN



Marco Pierre White Presents an unenvying sight. How much happier I'd be if "Le patron ne mange pas ici".

Mr Julian Critchley Sometimes writes bitchily. But though he remains a pleb it is not the same for Lord Tebbit.

Alan Whicker Couldn't be stickier. Yet he seemed peculiarly shy Of the Sultan of Brunei.

Malcolm X Wore rather odd specs. But would he have whipped up such frenzies Wearing plain contact lenses?

University entry gets tougher

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GETTING into the traditional universities is still becoming more difficult, in spite of unprecedented expansion and a worsening of staffing levels.

The latest university statistics, published today, show a 22 per cent increase in students over the four years ending in 1990-1. Although well behind the former polytechnics, the universities' expansion rate was the highest for more than a decade.

Increasing EC student numbers by more than a quarter in a single year helped the universities to a total population of more than 400,000 in 1990-1. Computer science showed the fastest growth, although arts subjects generally outstripped expansion in the sciences.

One result was a significant worsening of staffing levels, especially among lecturers employed from universities' own funds. While student numbers were rising by almost 20 per cent between 1986 and 1991, staffing rose by less than 13 per cent. Only 2.2 per cent of

the four-year increase came in staff wholly financed from state budgets. Those funded from private sources, many of whom were employed on commissioned research and were not available for general teaching, rose by 34 per cent.

Demand for university places has continued to lift entry standards. The average A-level score for school leavers rose for the second year in succession, passing the equivalent of two B grades and a C.

Only business studies, medical subjects, creative arts and education had entry standards fall in 1990-1. Social sciences, languages, humanities, architecture, librarianship and biological sciences all showed significant increases. Veterinary sciences and agriculture had the largest rise.

After Oxford, technological universities continued to represent the best chance of a first-class degree. Almost 20 per cent of undergraduates at Cambridge gained a first, 14 per cent at Oxford. Postgraduates increased by 8 per

cent, mostly taking taught courses.

Overseas student numbers reached a new peak at 56,000, up from 40,000 in 1986. The United States, Hong Kong and Malaysia each sent 4,500 students to British universities, and Germany and Greece 3,000.

Government forecasts in the Autumn Statement this month showed growth in new and old universities levelling off next year. Although recent increases are working their way through the system, the universities' allocation assumes that new enrolments will not exceed this year's figure. Most universities, however, have plans for continuing growth. Admissions tutors were predicting tougher entry standards next year, and the government targets would make them tougher still.

Universities Statistics 1990-1, Volume 1, Students and Staff (£15.25, from the Universities Statistical Record, PO Box 130, Cheltenham, GL50 3SD).

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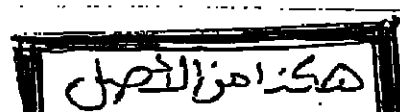
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10/1/2000



مكتبة من الأصل

Analysis: how Britain fails to prepare young people for the future

Minister attacks muddle that dogs training

BY NICHOLAS WATT AND IAN MURRAY

GOVERNMENT plans for a "skills revolution" have come too late to pull Britain out of recession. Training schemes rushed in to fill the nation's chronic skills gap are dismissed by many experts as short-sighted and unreliable. Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, believes there is "a muddle".

Even the most optimistic industrialists forecast that it will take until the end of the century before Britain can produce the kind of skilled workforce necessary to match its competitors.

For generations, efforts to produce skilled workers have been hampered by an elitist education system that weeds out all but the academic high fliers. The weak have then faced a maze of largely unsuccessful vocational training systems which Mrs Shephard is pledged to improve in tandem with John Patten, the education secretary.

Mrs Shephard, in an interview with *The Times*, accepted criticism of Britain's complicated network of training programmes, including the new work-based National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs). "We have 4,000 qualifications being awarded by 300 different bodies and it's small wonder that young people find this immensely confusing," she said. "There are a lot, but they do reflect what employers have asked for."

Employers, who provide nearly 90 per cent of Britain's training budget, are struggling to maintain funding in the recession, but many see training as a soft target for cuts. Mrs Shephard's own training budget was held at £2.8 billion in this month's Autumn Statement, which represents a cut of 3 per cent in real terms.

She agreed the recession has led to a shortage of places in the £851 million Youth Training scheme, which teaches

skills to 16 to 19-year-olds. She conceded that "a lot of work" had to be done to help this group, who are guaranteed training if they do not go into further education or a job. Only 23 per cent of the last batch monitored going through the scheme gained a qualification.

Mrs Shephard insisted, however, that industry had a new-found commitment, especially through Training Enter-

prise Councils (TECs), which in the past have persistently complained about Whitehall interference and underfunding. Asked about criticisms that little new money had been found for TECs, she said: "Funding is funding is funding. You will find that relationships between government and the TECs are good now. They are business people; they understand funding difficulties. They had a shopping list and we were able to deliver much of that."



'We have 4,000 qualifications awarded by 300 bodies; it's small wonder young people find this confusing'

— Gillian Shephard

On Britain's education

system, Mrs Shephard said: "Parents often encourage their children towards the thing that they know, which is A-level, when it might be much more useful to choose from a vocational menu. So I am working closely with John Patten to see what we can do to sort out the alphabet soup and to see if we can't provide something more in tune with the needs of young people and the economy."

For all the government's optimism, Edward Roberts, who chairs the body that oversees all 82 TECs, was just one of many experts in the training field who told *The Times* that companies had to wake up to the skills shortage. "It is true that when the recovery comes we will not be able to cope," he said. "That is why there is now an enormous emphasis on training coming from industry and not just the government."

Sir Bryan Nicholson, head of the Post Office and the National Council for Vocational Qualifications, believes these courses will rescue Britain, but admits it will be the end of the century before a full choice is available. "Other countries are also raising their standards all the time. We already start at a lower point and if they start motorizing ahead it is going to take an awful lot of catching up."

Professor Smithers, head of the Centre for Education and Employment Research at Manchester University, is unimpressed by the vocational council. Even if its targets are met, only half of Britain's 18-year-olds will be capable of going on to university, compared with 75 per cent in France or 80 per cent in Korea.

Professor Smithers praises the council's initiatives for providing a vocational route for less able school leavers, but says: "The qualifications have lost touch with reality. They are tailored to specific jobs. Rather than setting a core standard for maths, for example, you just have to know the maths related to one job. This may be all right in the short term, but what about a job in five years' time? Employers look for a certain range of talents and when they cannot find them they adjust to lower skills. We have the idea that we will somehow muddle through."

Hilary Steedman, senior research fellow of the National Institute for Economic and

Social Research, blamed Britain's low-skilled workforce for productivity that lagged behind its main competitors. "The government plan is untried and untested. We have jumped into the water before learning how to swim." "NVQs need significant amendment to be suitable for young people because they are too focused on one or two areas and have no perspective of what will be needed in ten years time. They may be all right for adults because they encourage people to get recognition for skills they have already acquired and this can improve morale. But it does not improve skill levels which already exist."

However, many firms suffering in the recession fail to be persuaded by the argument that now is the time to be training workers. While the government insists that training investment is holding up, Colin Bainbridge, who runs a training association on depressed Teesside, has found that Youth Training places have fallen by 35 per cent. "In a recession, training is the first thing to go and the last thing to come back," he said. "What frightens me is the skill shortage that is coming. No one will pay to fill it, but if you refuse to train, come the upturn, industry is going to have a big problem."

Leading article, page 17

Employers reject a tested model

BY IAN MURRAY

BRITISH employers considered the German training system and rejected it as wasteful and inflexible. Instead, they backed the new system of competence-based NVQs, which rely on shopfloor assessment of a trainee's skills.

This is the second time Britain has turned its back on a tested German education system. In 1868, the government rejected a Royal Commission's recommendations for a twin-track school system similar to the *Realschulen* and *Gymnasiums*. The government decided it was "too Prussian".

Tony Webb, head of training at the Confederation of British Industry, said: "The Germans just throw a lot of time

and money at the training problem and solve it that way. Their scheme is wasteful and fails to match skills to the labour market. The NVQ system, which aims at giving all school leavers core skills and a qualification which proves their ability to actually do a job, is less wasteful and far more practical. Even the Germans are coming round to this point of view."

Vivien Marshall, head of training at the Engineering Employers' Federation, said she recently went on a tour of German factories to study methods and came away totally unimpressed. "They are much further behind us in education training. Their schemes are too centralised and negotiated. They have a rigid structure. When you look at the occupational categories that they have, you are going

back into the past. Conceptually we are further ahead. We are the world leaders in qualification design. Our system is much more flexible. The concept is right, based on competence, skills, and teaching adults as well as youngsters."

The German system worked because it was cost effective for employers who gained cheap labour by paying trainees 20 per cent of adult rates. UK employers had to pay double that rate, she said.

Sir Bryan Nicholson helped to design the NVQs and admires the German system, which he saw as a manager in Germany during the seventies. He said he had deliberately set more attainable and more realistic standards. "Britain is not Germany and you cannot assume you can go straight up to their level."



Winners and losers: school leavers who join a training scheme still take a gamble on finding a job

Courses can lead nowhere

PETER SHEPPARD

Age 21. Left Hurlingham and Chelsea comprehensive school at 16. Took two YTS painting and decorating courses and then worked in a warehouse. Has not worked for 18 months because of illness.

COLIN RHODEN

Age 26. Left Wandsworth comprehensive school at 16 and took a course in electronics but was unable to find job in the field. Worked for a timber company and then studied for a business diploma. Was a building worker until made redundant. Despite a course in carpentry and bricklaying was unable to find work. City and Guilds information technology course failed to lead to a job.

DAVID RICHARDS

Age 18. Left St John's School, Upton Park, east London, in June 1990 with a C grade GCSE pass in home economics. Answered Bank of England training scheme advertisement and was one of 20 out of 1,000 applicants to be accepted. Spent first year in three different departments and obtained NVQ in information technology. Given probationer's firing job at £9,760 a year.

ANDREW THIRKELL

Age 16. Left Lawrence Jackson school in Gainsborough, Cleveland, in June. Chose YTS course in vehicle maintenance and was given a place by a Ford dealer. Attends training every Monday and works at Ford rest of week, earning £29.50 a week. Hopes dealer will employ him.

SAMANTHA MOORE

Age 18. Left Warren Wood Girls' School, Rochester, Kent, in June 1990. School had a weekly lesson in interview techniques and careers information. Taken on by APV Resistors as first female apprentice and spent a year at college learning basic electronics. Working for three years in different factory departments with one day a week at college, earning £6,200 a year. Should qualify for university entrance.

JULIO ROMERO

Age 16. Left Northcroft School, Shepherds Bush, west London, and worked as a mechanic at £65 per week until the company went out of business.

MICHELLE QUIGLEY

Age 17. Left Beacon Hill secondary school in Aspinia, Cambridgeshire, with nine GCSE passes. Joined YTS to find work in tourism. College arranged placement at a travel agency ten miles from her home, but travelling problems prevented her from taking this and she has been waiting for a YTS place ever since.

Interviews by Nicholas Watt, Ian Murray and Ronald Faux

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NEXT: How Gillian Shephard wants EastEnders to help her get it right

Demirel puts case for closer EC link

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL.

SULEYMAN Demirel, the Turkish prime minister, carries his country's campaign for greater integration in Europe to London today where he will have lunch with John Major.

Mr Demirel, who met Baroness Thatcher last week, is also expected to give assurances that his government will support the renewal of Provide Comfort, the allied air operation based in Turkish bases.

which provides a security umbrella for the Kurds of northern Iraq.

Although a familiar figure for the past three decades of Turkish politics, Mr Demirel will be making his first visit to Western European capitals since returning to office a year ago. It marks Turkish appreciation that Britain has used its presidency of the European Community to advance poli-

ical co-operation with Ankara in defiance of Greece. Mr Demirel will meet Jacques Delors at the EC Commission in Brussels on Tuesday.

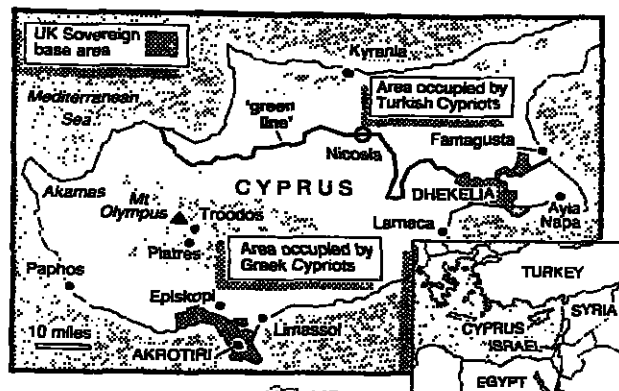
At a rare convocation of the Turkish-EC Association council two weeks ago, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, pledged the EC to a level of political consultation with Turkey, described by the Community's head of mission in Ankara as second only to that enjoyed by Washington and Japan.

Mr Hurd sidestepped a Greek veto to a joint declaration by making the commitment in the form of a binding unilateral statement. The statement confirms a new pragmatism in Turkey's relation with the EC. Western capitals were largely silent about Turkish troops entering northern Iraq in an attempt to destroy guerrilla bases belonging to the anti-Turkish Kurdistan Workers' Party. That has helped to remove public suspicion in Turkey of Western support for the Iraqi Kurds. The way is now cleared for the renewal of Provide Comfort.

But the UN mission in Iraq presents a flood of refugees in Turkey's borders, most believe to be in Ankara's own interests.

This improvement in its relations with the EC has been long in coming. Mr Demirel's predecessors failed to turn up at an association meeting in 1988 after Greece succeeded in linking progress in Turkey's EC negotiations to that over Cyprus.

Mr Demirel will also address representatives of 200 British firms today at a session of the Confederation of British Industry. He will remind his listeners of his government's commitment to entering into a full customs union with the EC by 1996.

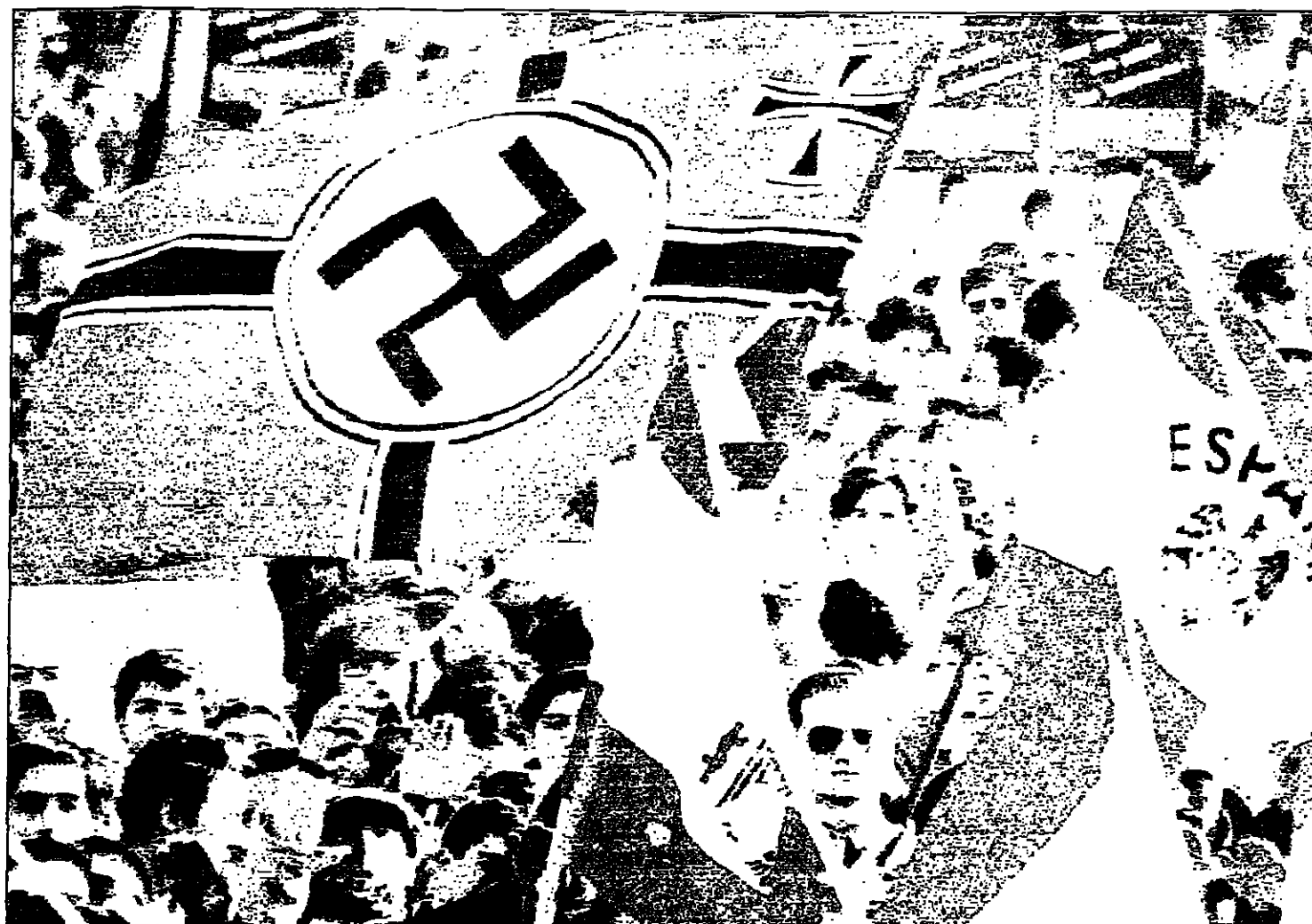


FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BOUTROS Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, called yesterday for a reduction of Turkish troops on the divided island of Cyprus and an easing of travel restrictions across the "green line" in an effort to breathe new life into the stalled peace talks between the Turkish and Greek Cypriot communities.

In a report sharply critical of the Turkish Cypriot negotiating stance, he said that these and other "confidence-building measures" should be put in place by the time the UN-mediated peace talks resume.

in March. "It appears from the recent joint meetings that there is a deep crisis of confidence between the two sides," he wrote. "It is difficult to envisage any successful outcome to the talks for as long as this situation prevails." He said the number of Turkish forces in the northern third of the island should be reduced by about 10,000 men to their level of a decade ago. In return, the internationally recognised Greek Cypriot government in the south of the island should suspend plans to buy more weapons.



Fascist march: a Nazi banner and the flag of Francoist Spain being carried in Madrid yesterday at a rally to commemorate Franco's death

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID
AND ANATOL LIEVEN IN BONN

FRANCO is back. Yesterday his old guard and young neo-Nazis held their annual rally on the seventeenth anniversary of his death, in the Plaza Oriente in Madrid in front of the royal palace.

About 5,000 people were there to pay homage to the Caudillo, according to the police. Many wore blue and black uniforms and dark glasses and waved fascist flags in leather-gloved hands. But a squabble between the Confederation of Ex-Combatants, who fought with Franco in the civil war and organised the rally, and the New Force, who will fight against anyone, preferably rival football fans and immigrants, pre-

vented New Force's leader, Blas Pinar, from speaking.

About 8,000 attended a rally on Saturday, whose organisers included the ruling Socialist Party, to condemn the recent shooting of a Dominican maid. Demonstrators held placards declaring "We are all mestizos."

The centenary of Franco's birth on December 4 is being marked by the publication of several books on the dictator. The authors often deride each other's work.

Javier Tussell says Franco created a personal dictatorship after eliminating his rivals. He boasts that he used primary sources, "not like the books by González Duro or



Franco: new squabbles divide his admirers

Payne". Enrique Gonzalez Duro, a psychiatrist, says that Franco was "an insecure child, fragile, with an inferi-

ority complex, unattractive, ambitious to be someone in life, influenced by his mother"

The American historian Stanley G. Payne agrees with Tussell that 30,000 political opponents of the regime were killed during its first years. But Manuel Vázquez Montalbán, a Catalan historian, says that Tussell's "inability to distance himself from the civil war is the same inability of the traditional right to distance themselves from their complicity with Franquismo".

In Austria, Jörg Haider, the far-right leader, was backed by his Freedom Party in launching a petition calling for Austria to halt immigration and introduce segregated schools. The petition

needs 100,000 signatures to force a parliamentary debate.

In Germany at the weekend Edmund Stoiber, a leader of the conservative Christian Social Union, said that, unless the party could agree on changing the asylum law with its coalition allies, the Christian Democrats, their alliance would be endangered and early elections may result.

In the west German city of Wuppertal, two far-right youths beat a man to death after he said he was Jewish. They poured alcoholic spirits over him and set it alight, police said. The youths, 18 and 24, were arrested and admitted the crime. The owner of the restaurant where the man was killed was also arrested.

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Mitterrand resists French demands for Gatt deal veto

The French president, facing a peasants' revolt, is looking for a way out. The opposition and even the Socialists are being no help

FROM CHARLES BREMER IN PARIS

WITH the rest of Europe entering the new farm agreement, the French government has this week on a political trolley suspended over two children, labelled "peasants' revolt" and "death to Mitterrand".

The Mitterrand administration spent the weekend trying to calm the wrath of the country's 1.7 million farmers with assurances that France would never accept the Washington "draft accord" in which the EC and America settled terms on farm exports within a new General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs.

Diplomats believe that enough leeway will eventually be found in Community

mechanisms to soften the blow to French farmers and get Mitterrand off the rope, but the path is long and fraught with danger. In a taste of the promised farm rebellion, squadrons of tractors laid siege to town halls and McDonald's hamburger bars in several cities on Saturday as Pierre Bérégovoy, the prime minister, proclaimed that the Washington accord "constitutes a grave threat for agriculture". On Wednesday, M Bérégovoy will try to corral support from a reluctant opposition in a parliamentary debate designed to launch a great national movement of defence of the farmers.

At the same time, however,

M Mitterrand is determined not to set off a Community meltdown by resorting to the ultimate weapon of a national veto, called the "Luxembourg compromise", to block a Gatt agreement. This would penalise the much greater sector of French industry which will benefit from a Gatt accord and almost certainly destroy the remnants of the Mitterrand accord, making a mockery of M Mitterrand's European ambitions.

Jacques Chirac, the leader of the Gaullist (RPR) party, is leading the charge against M Mitterrand, demanding a French veto if the new accord is not reopened. The government's own Socialist Party is close behind. The Gaullists, who are expected to lead a new government after elections in March, have nothing to gain from helping to save M Mitterrand.

Not a single politician could be heard suggesting compromise since Friday as all sides have vied to depict themselves as heroic defenders of the time-honoured Gallic way of life against an Anglo-Saxon threat. The air is thick with the imagery of resistance, with France being depicted as the plucky *maquisard* combating the American occupier, who is abetted by a collaborationist Britain in the role of a Vichy regime within Europe.

The FNSEA, the mainstream farmers' body, is invoking the same folk memory, which goes back through Joan of Arc to Roman times and Asterix the Gaul. "Before we die, we will resist and we will do so with force," said Luc Guyreau of the FNSEA.

Though even Jacques Delors, as patriotic a Frenchman as can be found, cautiously welcomed the agreement, many of his countrymen see only villainy. Jean-Pierre Soisson, the agriculture minister, has adopted the mantle of the late great general, appointing himself leader of a crusade against Washington and London. "I have taken as my motto the wacky of the House of Orange," said the Burgundy politician. "Je maintiendrai" (I will uphold).

Le Monde noted that, if France used its veto, "the strategy defined by the Maastricht treaty would be gravely damaged, to the great delight of the British". *Le Monde* and a handful of commentators, however, are pointing out the futility in France's emotional defence of a peasant sector which hails from another age.

The government will call a meeting of the EC council of foreign and agriculture ministers after deciding a position in parliament on Wednesday. A fierce fight is expected at the Edinburgh summit.

Currency turmoil, page 1
Diary, page 16
Business News, page 40

British farmers hold their fire

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

BRITISH farmers share many of the French doubts about a deal on world trade, but their unease is unlikely to amount to more than a rumble of discontent.

Like their French counterparts, they lack both political clout and public support and would be pilloried if they openly opposed a world trade agreement. David Naish, the president of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), has seemed incoherent. "A Gatt [General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs] deal is necessary in the interests of the national economy," he declared as lord of the agreement between the European Community and the United States came in last Friday. But agriculture should not be treated as the sacrificial lamb on the altar of free trade. We have said all along that there had to be a deal, but at any price.

But Oliver Walston, a big pig farmer in Cambridgeshire, said: "It looks as if we are going to pay a much higher price for a Gatt settlement than the reform of the EC's common agricultural policy (CAP) would have imposed on us. It is a pity the NFU didn't have the courage to tell us this months ago."

(The full details of Friday's deal are not known. Jonathan Munn, the agriculture minister, said yesterday: The 21 per cent cut in the volume of subsidised exports over six years will not be as... but it seems to me the absolutely consistent with the sort of reduction which the CAP reform is supposed to bring about.)

When the Gatt settlement brings the EC to outparagrade, the CAP re-

form merely changes the way subsidies are paid. The new system should reduce the incentive to boost output, but by how much is unclear. Mr Gummer and his French opposite number, Jean-Pierre Soisson, cannot both be right, but it may be years before one of them is proved wrong.

British farmers seem much less exposed than the French. French cereal growers produce about a third of the EC's subsidised grain exports, British ones less than 5 per cent. Similarly, nearly all British exports of beef and dairy products go to other EC countries and will not be hit directly by the Gatt cuts. But British farmers will be affected indirectly because over-supply within the EC will increase if French grain and dairy producers, for Irish beef producers, cannot sell as much of their output outside the EC as before. The biggest worry for Britain is that cuts in grain exports might push up the proportion of cereal acreage that has to be left fallow under CAP reform.



Soisson: unclear if fears are justified

Refugees claim massacre at Tajikistan camp

FROM ANNE MCILVOY IN MOSCOW

REPORTS that hundreds of refugees had been massacred at a camp on Tajikistan's border with Afghanistan were being investigated by the local authorities yesterday.

A United Nations official said thousands of refugees were stranded near the frontier after fleeing the Sharnaz district, where the massacre is alleged to have occurred this month. Details of the alleged assault by unidentified armed forces remain hazy, with the Russian news agency Nega claiming on Saturday that several hundred refugees were killed or injured. Refugees spoke of an unprovoked attack by "armed bandits", presumably from Afghanistan, using tanks and machineguns to terrorise the camp and steal provisions and medical supplies.

Most of the refugees in Sharnaz came from the Kurgan-Tyube region, scene of fierce fighting during recent months between supporters and opponents of Tajikistan's ousted president, Kakhron Nabiyev. In an attempt to halt the fighting, which has displaced thousands of Tajiks, parliament decided at the weekend to call for talks between leaders of the rival groups. It also accepted the resignation of President Nabiyev, a hardline communist, who was forced to resign at gunpoint in September. He has become a rallying figure for rebels opposed to the coalition government of Muslim activists and democrats.

The Transcaucasus region was also in the grip of a territorial dispute at the weekend with fierce fighting erupting in Nagorno-Karabakh as



Right dress: graduates of a Russian military school get ready for a leaving party at the academy 35 miles south of Moscow. Sixty women graduated from the school, which trains communications sergeants for land troops

Armenian forces began a large-scale offensive against Azerbaijani strongholds in the north of the republic. The Armenians claimed ten of their men were killed in the attack. Clashes were also reported in Georgia's break-

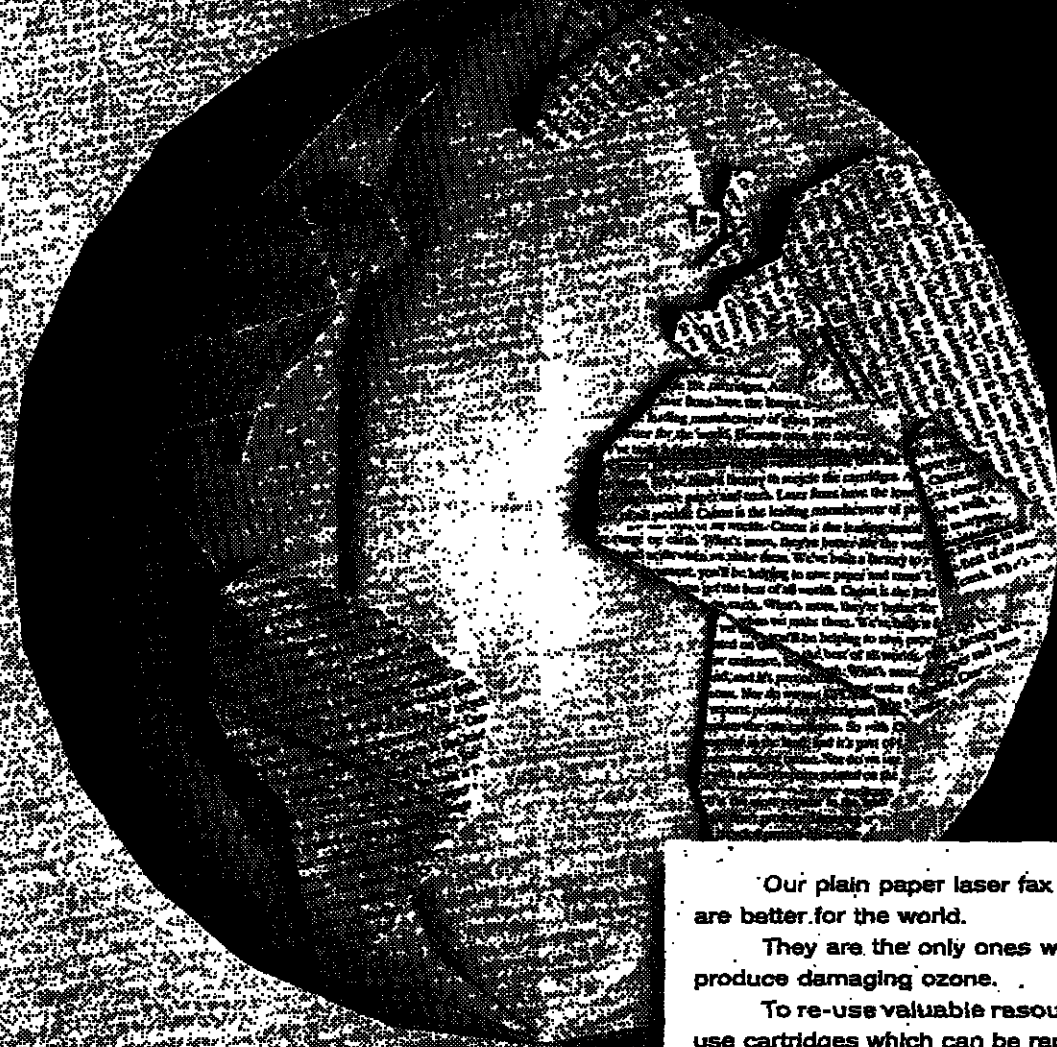
away Abkhazia region between separatists and government troops.

London visit: Aleksandr Chibuladze, the Georgian foreign minister, begins two days of talks in London today on Georgia's attempt to encour-

age Western aid and investment (Michael Binyon writes). He will have talks with the British Council, the Confederation of British Industry and the Department of Trade and Industry and sign new trade and cultural agreements. In

talks with Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Douglas Hogg, the junior Foreign Office minister, he will seek support for President Shevardnadze's attempt to enforce Georgian rule in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Murder case reopened in Santiago

Santiago: An appeals court has ordered the reopening of an investigation into the killing of Nathan Moyle, 28, a British journalist who was found hanging in a hotel closet in 1990, according to the newspaper *El Mercurio*. A for court announced last year that Moyle had been murdered rather than committing suicide as originally believed but closed the case for lack of evidence. (Reuters)

Hill sale

Florence: Imelde Siviero, owner of 20 watercolours by Adolf H. Hill, said she will put them up for auction a second time in the event of their failure to sell on day. (AFP)

Grat trial ends

Milan: Twenty businessmen have been jailed for up to 18 months for bribing a former Socialist Party official in exchange for lucrative public works contracts. (Reuters)

Floods kill 17

Kiev: floods in western Ukraine killed 17 people and caused millions of pounds in damage to houses and roads, officials said. (Reuters)

Ministers meet to speed ozone rescue

FROM MICHAEL MCCARTHY IN COPENHAGEN

ENVIRONMENT ministers from 87 countries, including Britain, begin three days of talks here today to speed up repairs to the Earth's protective ozone layer, which this year has been shown to be depleted to record levels.

Scientists believe increased skin cancers and crop failures are likely to result from the 20 per cent shrinkage of the ozone layer over the northern hemisphere. They also believe the hole in the ozone over the Antarctic will affect inhabited land for the first time when it reaches Tierra del Fuego and the Falkland Islands.

The destruction gives added urgency to the meeting of the signatories of the Montreal Protocol, the treaty governing the worldwide phasing out of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), the man-made chemicals primarily responsible for destroying ozone gas in the stratosphere.

The meeting's threefold purpose is to bring forward by four years the present CFC phase-out schedule, agreed in London two years ago; bring other ozone-destroying chemicals under control; and cement arrangements for aid to Third World countries establishing CFC replacement programmes.

The issues will present the

ministers gathered in the Danish capital, including David Maclean, the environment minister, and Michael Howard, the environment secretary, with some difficult decisions. There is unlikely to be disagreement about bringing forward the date for CFCs to be phased out in industrialised countries from January 1, 2000 to January 1, 1996.

Progress may be less straightforward with proposals to bring new substances into under treaty. One such substance is methyl bromide, a chemical which scientists recently discovered is at least 15 times as damaging to the ozone layer as CFCs. Unfortunately, methyl bromide is also one of the most widely-used and effective pesticides.

There is almost certain to be argument over the \$240 million (£158 million) fund to help Third World countries meet their CFC phase-out obligations. Some donor countries, in particular Britain, France and Italy, would like the fund to become part of the environmental facility of the World Bank. Developing nations will resist this idea and, for once, they are likely to be backed by the United States.



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Serb warlords and UN politics frustrate British mission

DESPITE the armour deployed in Bosnia from Britain and other countries, and despite the Nato-style headquarters in Kiseljak which plots the relief operation like a military campaign, the exercise is doomed to fail because the Serbian militia holds all the cards.

For the UN humanitarian relief operation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Britain's part in it, is being thwarted by Serb warlords who are preventing the 7,000 foreign troops from carrying out their mandate. Frustration and anger are growing.

Yesterday a British armoured reconnaissance unit, consisting of five Warriors and two Scimitars, went into Turbe, which is the next town about to fall to the Serbs, to find out the extent of the fighting. It was the first time the British had been asked to go so close to the front lines. Turbe, 10 miles east of Vitez, will still fall — probably this week — and there is nothing the British can do about it.

The successful delivery of food, shelter and medicines to hundreds of thousands of refugees depends on the co-

Michael Evans in Vitez reports on the UN men of peace stopped from delivering aid because men of war hold all the cards



ordinate the point that the UNHCR runs this operation and the military are here under duress.

Convoy runs to areas threatened by Serb guns follow delicate negotiations by the UNHCR and by UN military observers with the local warlords. These are ambitious and untrustworthy militia commanders whose men loose off a few anti-aircraft rounds at passing vehicles before going home for tea and slivovic. Into this political mess Operation Grapple, the British effort here in central Bosnia, is now up and running. The 2,400 troops deployed, in particular the 800 or so based at Vitez, can hardly be described as fully operational.

The armoured Warriors have yet to be used for a convoy that really needs their protection. They are not involved in the run to Tuzla because the bridges are too weak. They are out on the roads, but the food convoys they escort are going to places such as Kakani, where there is no threat to anyone.

This is not the fault of the British troops, whose professionalism and organisation



are on show every day at the camp and in the area. Every soldier, from Lieutenant Bob Stewart, commander of the battalion battle group, down to the drivers of the armoured vehicles, are desperate to make Operation Grapple work. There are 380,000 in need in the British sector, including Tuzla, requiring 350 tonnes of aid a day and the soldiers want

to get on with the job. However, the civil war is frustrating the whole process. The UN Security Council resolution permits soldiers to open fire if they are prevented from carrying out their mandate. Each day the Serbs are doing just that, but General Morillon says: "Use of force is something we will try to avoid."

The UN mandate is so

restrictive that, if the Serbs start attacking Vitez and killing citizens, the British who share this town would probably have to watch from the sidelines. General Morillon said yesterday: "I hope it will not happen. If it does, we'll not remain passive." He did not explain what he had in mind.

The British came here to help refugees and to be neutral. Their blue helmets distinguish them as representatives of Unprofor, the UN protection force in Bosnia. But they are not allowed to protect anyone. Unprofor is a misnomer.

Living among the Croats and Muslims, it is difficult to be neutral when the Serbs are the ones pounding the towns with artillery shells, driving the inhabitants out of their homes in terror. Understandably, there are British soldiers in Vitez who, given the chance, would like to use the 81mm mortar brought with the battle group to destroy Serb guns. But the UN says that mortar rounds can be used only as illuminators at night to help identify the direction of Serb fire in the event of a convoy coming under attack.

Nobody expected this task to be easy. Delivering aid in the midst of a war which unpredictable was bound to be a frustrating exercise. Yet it is 10 nations which have sent military personnel to Bosnia and are spending millions of pounds to help the victims of the war have so far managed to tinker at the edge of the refugee challenge.

However, before politicians in London cry out for the withdrawal of the British soldiers, they should first see for themselves what the situation is on the ground. The Royal Engineers, in particular, have hit an infrastructure and built a network of supply roads which, if fully used, would begin to address the refugee problem on a meaningful scale.

The Serbs, however, are Unprofor at their mercy, they only have to say "No" to a convoy of food is sent around and sent back to the warehouse. Each day 100 people are forced by Serb shelling to become refugees, struggling along the road with their belongings tied on old farm carts.

Fleet patrols Adriatic to enforce UN blockade

Ships from Nato and the Western European Union are blockading the ports of rump Yugoslavia. The WEU says it is also prepared to enforce the UN embargo on land

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

NATO and Western European Union ships backed by air-sea reconnaissance aircraft and Awaacs spy planes clamped a full naval blockade on the rump Yugoslavia in the Adriatic yesterday with power to stop and search vessels suspected of breaking the United Nations embargo, officials said.

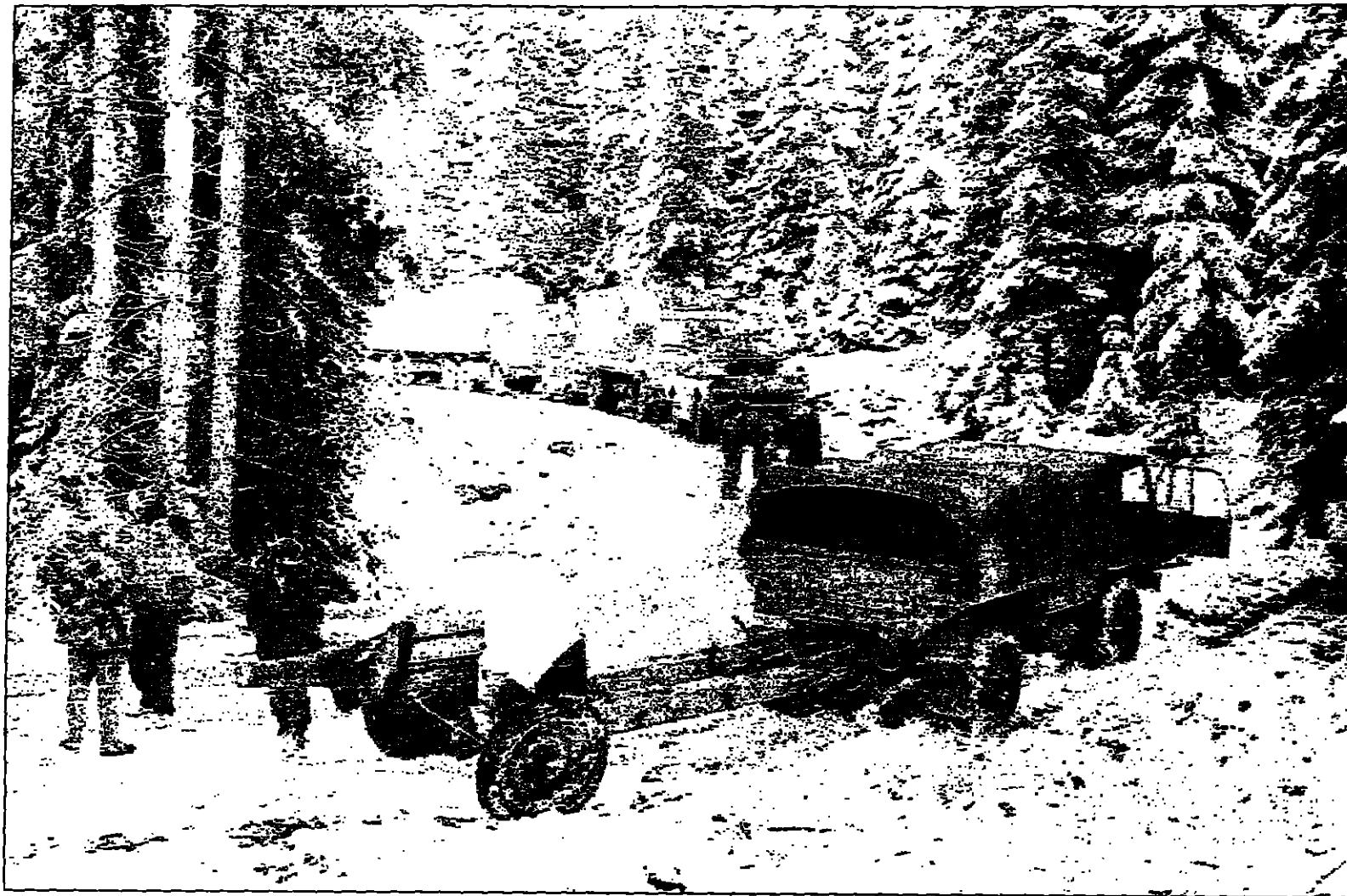
The patrols, codenamed "Operation Sharp Fence", began at 5 pm with seven Nato vessels and five WEU ships participating, according to officials of Nato and the Italian defence ministry in Naples and Rome. "They are already patrolling," an Italian defence ministry official said.

"All ships trying to enter or leave the waters of the former Yugoslavia will be stopped," said Francesco Veltri, the Nato Southern Command spokesman. "The provenance and destination of their cargo will be checked. If there is proof of non-observance of United

Nations resolutions, ships will be taken to an approved port or anchorage or to the port from where they came, subject to agreement of the flag state."

Italian newspapers said that the rules of engagement for the Nato/WEU fleet were the same as those during the Gulf war. Nato officials declined to specify the rules, but on Friday Volker Rühle, the German defence minister, said: "They can fire warning shots but they are not allowed to destroy ships."

Speaking on the fringes of a WEU ministerial meeting that decided to step up the pressure of the defence organisation, Herr Rühle added that the German destroyer *Hamburg*, forming part of Nato's seventh Standing Naval Force Mediterranean, would be limited to monitoring for the time being. "The *Hamburg* is banned by the German constitution from any hostile action," he said.



Convoy blocked: trucks carrying humanitarian aid being halted just outside Sarajevo. The city came under heavy bombardment yesterday

The Nato ships are the destroyers *Audace* (Italy), the *Hamburg* (Germany), the *Tompazis* (Greece), the *Pivaspas* (Turkey), the *HMS Gloucester* (Britain) and the frigates *Vankinsbergen* (The Netherlands) and *USS Halibuton* (America). The commander of the Nato naval force is Italy's Admiral Enrico

Martinotti, who was in charge of the Italian naval force in the Gulf during the war against Iraq.

The WEU ships are the frigates *Zephiro* (Italy), *Westhinder* (Belgium), *Andalucia* (Spain) and the corvettes *Jean de Vienne* (France) and *Diade* (Italy). Italy's Admiral Vincenzo Pellegrini, on board the *Zephiro*, heads the WEU squadron, which is deployed primarily in the Otranto channel area of the lower Adriatic off the port of Brindisi.

Backing the Nato vessels are American, British and Portuguese air-sea reconnaissance aircraft and American and French Awaacs-style spy planes. Supporting the Western European Union ships are aircraft

from Italy, The Netherlands, Germany and France.

The WEU ships had originally been scheduled to start patrols on Tuesday, but the Italian defence minister decided on Saturday to bring forward the start of their operation to coincide with the Nato plans.

Italy is currently the chairman of the WEU, which now consists of 10 members after the acceptance of Greece as a full member on Friday. The enlargement was a boost to the fledgling status of the WEU as the defence arm of the EC.

The WEU appealed at its meeting in Rome on Friday to countries along the Danube also to guarantee "the rigid implementation of the content

of the UN resolutions". The WEU said it was "ready to offer, if requested, knowledge, technical assistance and material to impede violation of the sanctions" to those countries.

Naval and air forces of the WEU "will begin direct operations to ensure the rigid implementation of the naval embargo... including stop and search actions and other necessary measures," said the statement. The ten members said they also were prepared to contribute in principle to the embargo along land frontiers.

Italy called for the number of naval vessels operating in the Adriatic under WEU auspices to be increased to seven. □ Sarajevo: A once promising ceasefire virtually col-

lapsed yesterday as Sarajevo suffered its heaviest artillery bombardment since the truce went into effect on November 12. Bosnian authorities also accused Serb forces of moving Scud missiles from Banja Luka and deploying them in positions that threaten the northern towns of Modica and Odzak, but a Serb military spokesman denied the allegation. Heavy artillery shells struck numerous areas of the capital yesterday. (AP)

Travnik typhoid, page 1

Doctors plead for oppressed Bosnians

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN NEW YORK

THE medical relief group Médecins sans Frontières has identified ten minority nationalities worldwide that it considers most threatened by war and oppression.

"Our intention is to highlight current uprisings," the group's president, Dr Rony Brauman said, "to bear witness to what is happening and to help humanitarian aid workers to act on the principles of humanitarian aid. We hope that by arousing awareness and a desire to understand, we will also try to induce indignation and stimulate action."

In its report, released today, the French-based relief agency singled out Bosnians, who are besieged by Serbia and Croatian forces in "deliberate strategy of terror against the population, aimed at redesigning the ethnic map of the country."

Other groups were Azerbaijanis and Armenians in the Caucasus; Kurds; Mozambicans; Eritreans; Rohingas, a Muslim group in Burma; Somalis; Sri Lankans; south Sudanese; and the Tuaregs.

Dr Brauman is also met Boutros Boutros Ghali, secretary-general of the United Nations, to discuss the ten threatened areas and populations.

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£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	7.02**	5.26				

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Women join priesthood in Australia

Sydney: The 220 members of Australia's General Synod have voted in favour of a bill allowing the ordination of women priests (writes Robert Cockburn).

The Anglican church in Australia now faces a threatened split. The Sydney diocese is planning to form an independent Anglican branch preserving an exclusive order of male priests.

Tornado toll

Washington: Tornadoes ripped through the American south, killing at least 16 people, injuring more than 200, and causing millions of pounds worth of damage.

Bombs kill 40

Gwahati: Forty people were killed by two remote-controlled bombs in the capital of the Indian state of Assam. The separatist Bodo Security Force is blamed. (Reuters)

Gold recovered

Montevideo: Sonheby's is expecting the first consignment of gold treasure worth up to £2 billion, recovered from the *El Preciado*, a Spanish galleon that sank off Uruguay in 1792. (AFP)

Rabin orders end to 'war of the generals'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, yesterday attempted to restore public confidence in the country's cherished military, after more than two weeks of damaging disclosures surrounding a bungled top secret exercise.

After yesterday's weekly cabinet meeting, Mr Rabin, who is also defence minister, issued a statement reinforcing government support for the Israel Defence Force in spite of a military police investigation that could lead to charges being laid against senior officers.

The incident happened early on November 5 when Israel's most elite combat unit was engaged in a complex and secret exercise in the military camp of Tze'elim in the Negev Desert. During a rehearsal for an operation, a missile was fired accidentally at a group of young soldiers, killing five and injuring six others.

Although the accident was one of several training mishaps by the army this year, it attracted attention because the unit involved is highly prestigious, trained to operate behind enemy lines. According to an initial investigation, the combat drill was badly planned and negligent in considering safety procedures. It recommended that the officer in command of the exercise, Major General

Amiram Levine, a major and a captain be prosecuted. However, supporters of Maj Gen Levine in the military said he was being made a scapegoat, an allegation that gained credibility when it emerged that the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ehud Barak, and the head of military intelligence, Major General Uri Saguy, had been present at the time of the accident.

After what became known as the "war of the generals", Mr Rabin felt compelled in a television interview on Friday to order his senior commanders to shut up or face the prospect of lie detector tests. He accused politicians and the press of near "hysterical" treatment of the issue. However, today the issue will again be taken up by parliamentarians across the political spectrum who are angered by the loss of life and the army's poor handling of the aftermath.

□ Student stabbed: A Jewish seminary student was stabbed yesterday by a young Palestinian woman in Jerusalem's Old City, in apparent retaliation for last week's grenade attack on an Arab market by suspected extreme right-wing Israelis. The student's companion drew his pistol and shot the assailant in the legs. Both Arab and Jew were treated for light wounds.

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Peking threatens dent support for Patten in Hong Kong

■ Polls show faith in Mr Patten's strategy ebbing in the colony. The governor has dismissed demands for a referendum on his reform package

By JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

CHINA'S sustained campaign of threats and propaganda is beginning to dent public support for Chris Patten, the Hong Kong governor, in his attempt to bring greater democracy to the colony.

For the first time since he unveiled his package of constitutional reforms six weeks ago, the public is questioning the wisdom of confronting China for the limited political benefits and backing calls for a referendum on the governor's proposals.

An opinion poll in the *Sunday Morning Post* showed that, while the majority of Hong Kong people still support in principle Mr Patten's plan to broaden the franchise,

for elections to the colonial legislature, 48 per cent believe he should abandon his proposals rather than risk the wholesale dismissal of the legislature when China takes over in 1997. Only 34 per cent said he should carry on.

The result is a sharp reversal in fortunes for Mr Patten. A similar survey last month showed only 19 per cent favoured dropping his reforms if it meant abandoning the so-called through-train, which allows legislators to remain in office beyond the handover. At that time a solid 56 per cent urged him to push ahead despite Chinese pressure.

The survey was conducted at the end of a week when the Hong Kong stock market plunged more than 7 per cent on reports that Zhu Rongji, the Chinese deputy prime minister, had threatened to tear up the 1984 Sino-British treaty on the future of Hong Kong unless Mr Patten backed down. No less than 29 per cent of respondents said they had lost confidence during the course of the week.

Although the survey sample was relatively small, politicians see the swing as large enough to be significant. Martin Lee, chairman of the liberal United Democrats of Hong Kong, who has broadly supported the governor's stand, said he expected support to decrease in the present political atmosphere.

The governor, however, remained unmoved. As he returned from London on Saturday, he confirmed his opposition to a referendum, despite the poll's finding that 65 per cent favoured putting his proposals to the public. He said a referendum would be divisive and would remove from the shoulders of the legislative councillors the responsibility of deciding on the legislative packages.

Western experts are increasingly gloomy over Chinese reactions to Mr Patten. Most say he and the British government have underestimated the anger and loss of face in Peking, and predict a sharp increase in the propaganda battle against Mr Patten's proposals. The Communist leadership, taking its cue from tough statements by Deng Xiaoping, appears to see the proposals as a direct political challenge not only to China's hegemony over Hong Kong but also its influence in the region.

Among those expressing dismay at the damage Mr Patten's plans have caused to Sino-British relations are Lord Macdougall, a former governor of Hong Kong, and Sir Percy Cradock, a former ambassador who was central to negotiations with Peking.



Bhutto: intends to visit America next month

UN envoy sent after de Klerk rebuff

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

A UNITED Nations envoy flew to South Africa yesterday as President de Klerk faced a renewed onslaught on his government's credibility and his own commitment to revealing what lay behind the country's violence.

Tom Vraalsen, Norway's ambassador to the UN, has begun a two-week mission to Pretoria as a special envoy of Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general. Mr de Klerk's refusal to grant wider investigative powers to Justice Richard Goldstone, chairman of a commission on violence, is seen by diplomats here as flying in the face of the secretary-general's recommendation that the commission's scope be extended to include all armed forces.

Last week Judge Goldstone disclosed details of a scheme backed by South African military intelligence to discredit the African National Congress through a "dirty tricks" operation involving Ferdi Barnard, a former agent of the sinister Civil Co-operation Bureau (CCB), who has figured in the inquest into the death of Dr David Webster, an anti-apartheid activist killed in 1989. Mr de Klerk told the judge on Friday that the commission's existing powers were sufficient

for it to carry out its mandate but that more police help would be made available.

At the weekend it was claimed that in January 1990 Mr de Klerk gave an assurance that there would be no witch-hunt over the activities of the CCB. The claim was made by Joe Verser, the head of the CCB, during evidence given in camera to the Webster inquest on Friday.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, said in a speech on Friday night that unless a date was set at the meeting for an elected interim government "there will be no further bilateral talks with the government". Roelf Meyer, minister of constitutional development, said it was a pity that Mr Mandela "is now creating the impression that he wants to determine the agenda and dictate the discussion by intimidation".

□ **Buthezi role:** Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom party, indicated that there was little hope of early talks between himself and Mr Mandela on curbing intercommunal violence. He added that he would disregard any date for the establishment of an interim administration if it was set by the ANC and the government.

Peruvians queue to vote in defiance of Shining Path

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN LIMA

THOUSANDS of soldiers in armoured trucks patrolled the streets of Lima yesterday as Peruvians queued at polling stations for hours to cast their obligatory vote to elect a new "democratic" constituent congress. It will replace the parliament President Fujimori abolished in a coup last April.

Shining Path guerrillas launched dynamite attacks on polling stations in several rural areas outside Lima. No one was seriously injured. In most areas the public is reported to have defied the guerrillas' demands to boycott the elections. While the turnout to some extent reflects the popularity of the Fujimori government, which has promised a crackdown on terrorist violence and economic reforms to lift the country from poverty, many Peruvians are also likely to have voted because they could not afford the fines for not voting.

President Fujimori called the elections for the new congress, which will be responsible for rewriting the constitution, as a move to return Peru to democracy. In



In the saddle: Alberto Fujimori, the Peruvian president, waves to crowds at a Lima road-opening ceremony

April he abolished all democratic institutions and the judiciary, with the backing of the military. Señor Fujimori claimed then that the parliament and judicial system were corrupt and had fostered the growth in terrorist violence and drug trafficking.

He gave his security forces increased emergency powers and won widespread public support with the capture of Abimael Guzmán, the Shining Path leader and founder, in September. The decade-long terror campaign led by Guzmán and retaliation by

the security forces had claimed 25,000 lives. "Peruvians are tired of violence. Many back Fujimori although he gave himself the powers of a dictator, because they believe it is the only way to get rid of terrorism," said Javier Cuñilliza, member of a

human rights organisation. More than 250 observers from the Organisation of American States are monitoring the elections.

Casting his vote at a Lima polling station, the president, whom Peruvians often call "El Chino" because he is the

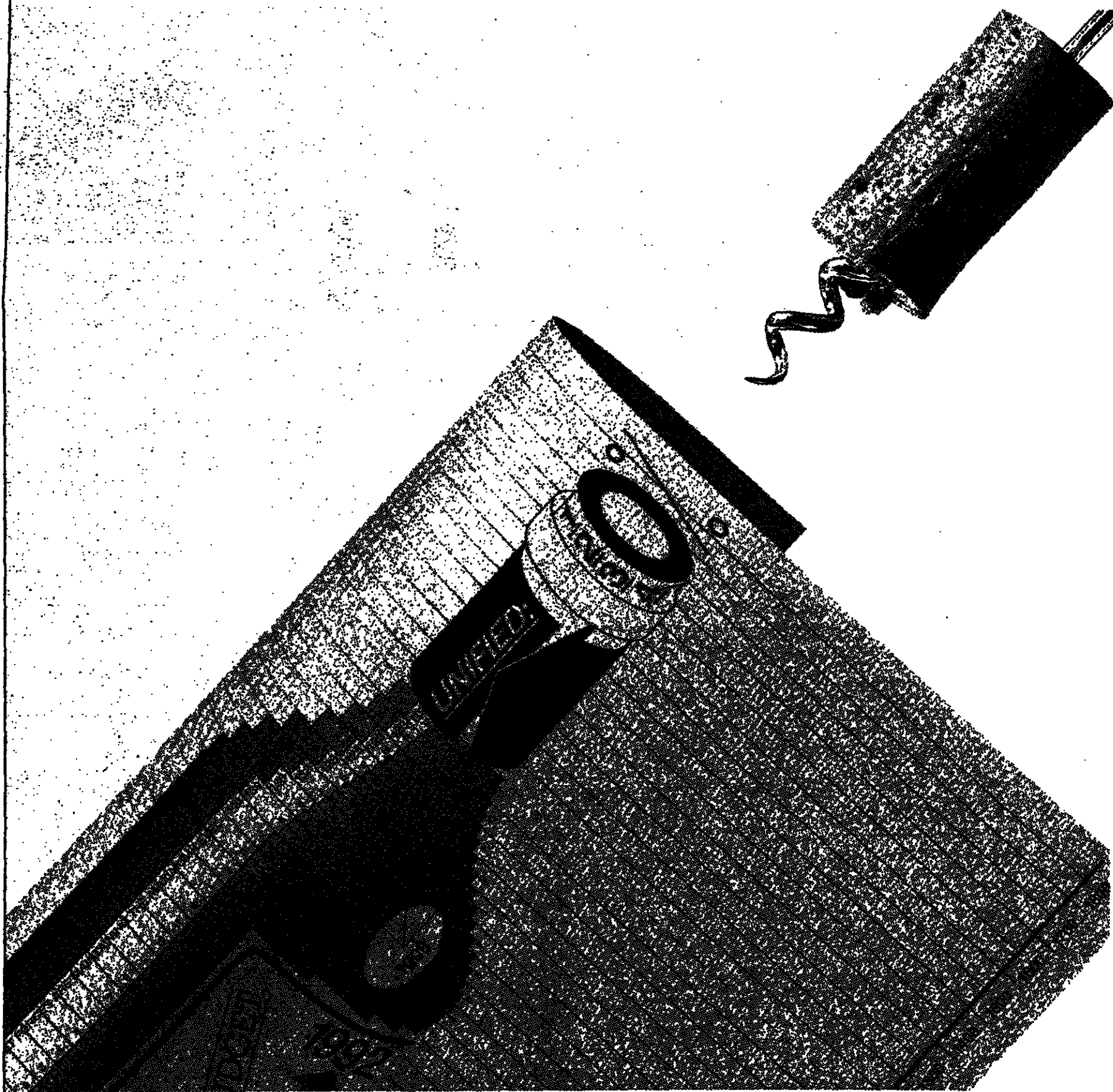
son of Japanese immigrants, said: "The voting today will take us back into the democratic process and show the world I have a legitimate government." But most analysts expect a continuing dictatorship-like regime, with the elections being used to endorse the policies of Señor Fujimori, who wants to increase his own powers and lengthen his stay in office beyond his constitutional mandate in 1995.

The parties contesting the 80 seats in the new congress are an array of amateur independent groups, while Peru's two most established parties, the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance and the Popular Action Party, have boycotted the polls.

Millions of pounds of state funds were spent producing a daily 30-minute TV slot idealising the president's anti-guerrilla achievements and discrediting traditional parties as subversive.

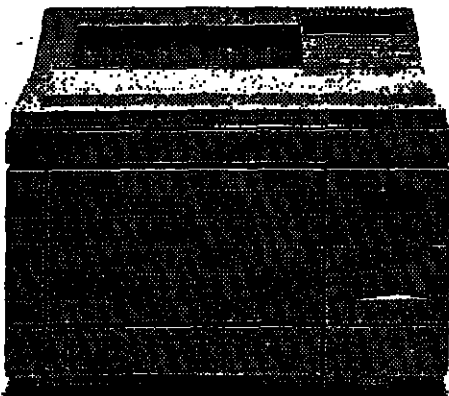
If Señor Fujimori's Cambio 90-Nueva Mayoría Party and another sympathetic Renovación Party do not pull off the expected majority, it will be a personal failure and discredit his government and his April coup. Results are expected today.

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FASHION

IAIN R. WEBB

Bitches and stitches



Are television and film portrayals of the world of fashion anywhere near the truth, or is truth more outrageous than fiction?

When the news broke that the BBC intended to screen a new comedy series called *Absolutely Fabulous*, starring Jennifer Saunders as Edina Monsoon, fashion PR, people in the fashion business shuddered. For the past two weeks they have tuned into BBC2 at 9pm on Thursday nights wondering if, God forbid, this will be the night they see themselves parodied and pilloried in front of the television viewing nation.

As art supposedly imitates real life, so television and film produce their own versions, sometimes funny, sometimes colourful, sometimes downright dreary, but almost always never further from the truth. What could provide better material than the bitchy, back-biting world of fashion, already filled to the brim with drama queens (of both sexes), glamorous girls and beefcake boys and luxury lifestyles inhabited by the very rich and those who think they are very famous? It is a scriptwriter's dream.

Over the years there have been many attempts to harness the histrionics that are basic to the fashion business and make them watchable. Even every-day soap operas have succumbed to the fashion bug. In the mid-1980s *Coronation Street's* Mike Baldwin owned a factory which "ran up jeans". This was not enough for entrepreneur Baldwin, so, enter his new discovery, Christine Millward, a designer who would help him to take the fashion world by storm with her inspirational... flying

suits. "Gold dust, my dear", salivated Baldwin, as those stalwarts Ivy Tilsley and Vera Duckworth argued over who should model them. "Imagine our flying suits in one of those boutiques in Carnaby Street," another seamstress mused, and the viewer felt almost sad that nobody had told them they were about 20 years too late.

More recently, another young hopeful has joined the *Coronation Street* cast. Angie wears brooches and badges by the bucketful in her effort to express her art as often on her hat as her sleeve. The barmaid, Raquel, calls her the "creative genius with the radical chic". We are yet to see any evidence of either.

Two young ladies who are deadly serious about their art are Beatrice and Evangeline Elliott, in the BBC1 1920s drama *The House of Eliott*. Never an episode goes by without the stylish sisters agonising over the relevance of the dresses they design. "Do you believe in this collection or not?" they scream, as another Poirot-inspired gown limps onto the screen. When not concerning themselves with the collection, the pair create designs for the stage, and now the screen, and still find time to shock. A show that used dancers instead of regular mannequins to model their clothes was met with story faces by the audience. The Elliott sisters are just too radical it seems, perhaps they should talk to Angie.

The bigger the screen the bigger the horrors appear. *Mahogany* was possibly the most ludicrous and implausible "fashion film" ever



made. It was even a ludicrous film. *Mahogany* stars Diana Ross. The press release told us "Diana portrays a world famous High Fashion model and designer in this dramatic international love story..."

Diana, or *Mahogany*, captivates an international jet-setter who will sponsor her in her struggle for fame as a high fashion designer. Note the term "high fashion" is always used when it's on the big screen. Twice as bright, as are the designs that *Mahogany* intends to dress the world in. The press release describes them as "a stunning group of Oriental inspired costumes personally designed by Diana Ross highlights a fashion show sequence". I am surprised Ms Ross even wanted to take credit for creating such quasi-Blake's Seven concoctions. Apart from spending

her time being photographed in the streets by talented but tormented Anthony Perkins, perfectly typecast, who opens the door for her modelling career, she almost dies in a car accident, but is lucky enough to be aided to recovery by the international jet-setter who will sponsor her career, etc. etc.

The films *Blow-Up* and *The Eyes of Laura Mars* both offered insights into the lives of top fashion photographers, played by David Hemmings and Faye Dunaway respectively. They both became involved in murder mysteries, which is possibly not as far fetched as people might imagine as there are many in the fashion business one could willingly murder.

However, *Blow-Up's* portrayal of the fashion photographer as Jack the Lad, all East End and sports

car, is no nearer the truth than Laura Mars who is wrapped in all manner of designer dresses, and appears photographing her deathly looking models in a skirt which has no shame and a pair of shoes which have no centre of gravity.

Even models find it difficult to walk in anything higher than three-and-a-half inches let alone steady themselves while focusing in a position which would stump even Jane Fonda. The heels of Laura Mars' shoes are obviously the reason someone wants to kill her. An angry model perhaps, caught between the cross-fire and camera shake? Another similarity between the pair is the exhausting amounts of sex they indulge in. In *Blow-Up* almost every photo session ends in

an orgasm. This is not true. Orgasms come when the pictures have been developed, not when they are being taken. Then it is only headaches which fill the studio.

Funnier still is Fred Astaire acting as a photographer (based, it is rumoured, on Richard Avedon) in the film, *Funny Face*. It is he who shoots Audrey Hepburn to stardom as a model. However, both are upstaged by the wonderful portrayal of a fashion editor by Kay Thompson. It is she who heads *Quality* magazine, and makes the decisions. Girls are discarded; lives are ruined; the world changes colour, all on her say so. "Think Pink", she hollers, and all around her do just that. She is always neatly dressed, never a hair out of place, and always wears a hat and/or gloves. She is surrounded by a team of

similarly attired young ladies who bow to her every whim. She is the ideal to which we all aspire.

Absolutely Fabulous with Jennifer Saunders hitchhiking, barking and boozing her way through the series is a hyper-verbalising version of the fashion nightmare. But it has one thing that makes it work where others fail. Humour. The sight of Joanna Lumley as the fashion doyenne, Patsy - Ivana Trump's looks and Roseanne Arnold's mouth - chain-smoking her way around town in a hired car, dropping into Harvey Nichols department store, or stopping for a bite at the fashionable San Lorenzo restaurant in Beauchamp Place, before maybe popping into the office on her way home is funny, and, most definitely, not in the least like real life at all. Honestly.



Above: *Funny Face*, everybody was ordered to "think pink".

Far left: *Absolutely Fabulous*, who will be pilloried for the viewers next?

Left: *Blow-Up*: David Hemmings's photographer as Jack the Lad is far from reality.

Right: *Mahogany*: Diana Ross in possibly the most ludicrous and implausible "fashion film" ever made.

Below: *The Eyes of Laura Mars*: Faye Dunaway was nowhere near the truth.



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Cut along, there

NATIONAL Aids Day is next Monday and the best way to raise money is to have your hair done. Last week Gloria Hunniford, Kate Bush, the television personality Richard Jobson, Michael Ball and Marjorie Mowlam MP and other celebrities, were looking perfectly coiffed.

They had put their heads in the hands of top hairdresser Anthony Yacimane and his team at his salon at 56 George Street, London W1, and not been charged a penny - simply handed an empty envelope into which to put their donation for Aids Day.

From today, any member of the public can have the same treatment. From 5pm to 10pm every day this week and all day on Sunday, Yacimane and his team will be handing out an empty envelope to fill at the end of the hair-do. A cut with Anthony Yacimane can usually cost up to £80. Call 071-224 6444 for an appointment.



In trim: Richard Jobson has made a contribution

Linking style to a good cause

ANOTHER way to raise money for Aids Day is to buy a pair of cufflinks. Jewellery designer Barbara Boshia Nelson has designed a collection of limited edition cufflinks which are being sold at Paul Smith's, 41-44 Floral Street, London WC2, with 50 per cent of the profits going to the Terence Higgins Trust. The cufflinks, £40, are produced from antique glass stampings set with gold leaf and with 18ct gold links. There is also a small range of lapel pins, £30, and brooches.

TO COINCIDE with the publication of *Made By Cartier*, a history of the company from 1847 until the present day, Cartier is holding an exhibition of objects from its archive collection dating from 1903 including jewellery, watches and clocks. The book costs £55 and is available from Cartier boutiques. The exhibition opens today and runs until December 2 at Cartier, 175 New Bond Street, London W1. It then moves to Harrods, Knightsbridge, for one day, December 3, and Cartier, 188 Sloane Street, London SW1, December 5-9.

Take your partners

CHRISTIAN LACROIX, the designer best known for his flamboyant mixing of colour, print and fabrics, will design for a British company for the first time next month. As part of the celebrations of the 100th anniversary of *The Nutcracker*, which was first performed in St Petersburg, the English National Ballet is holding a ball in the presence of its patron, the Princess of Wales on December 3 at the Durbur Court, Whitehall. The highlight will be Rebecca Sewell and Christian Dum-

can dancing the Waltz of the Flowers from *The Nutcracker* in costumes specially designed by Lacroix. Another attraction will be Wayne Sleep dancing with students from the English National Ballet. Tickets are £500 each in aid of the Stepping Stones (Peto UK) appeal and the English National Ballet and include a champagne reception, four course dinner, magicians, acrobats and dancing. Call 071-581 1245 for tickets.

SARAH NEWTON

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This beautiful design is based directly on a tile painted by William de Morgan at the Victoria and Albert Museum. It has been adapted to needlework by Neil McCallum with a painstaking attention to detail which faithfully captures both the movement and colour of the original. The peacock is a resplendent mixture of kingfisher, sky and turquoise blues. Its legs and beak are a combination of deep emerald and bottle green with honey-suckle yellow. The seamounter mixes jade, sage and forest greens with golden browns, and jade green fish swim in the surrounding sea. This sweeping pattern is set on a central background of ivory which gives the whole composition a crisp and sparkling clarity.

Measuring 15" x 15" the design is printed in full colour on 14 holes to the inch canvas to capture the detail. 100% pure wool from the Appleton tapestry range is used and the design can be worked in either half-cross or tent stitch. The kit costs £34.50 including postage and packing. When ordering use FREEPOST - no stamp needed.

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Cut the apron strings



LIBBY PURVES

Who says it is women who are secretive, and gossip, and exclusive? On Friday night Chris Mullin, the Labour MP for Sunderland South, torpedoed by a government whip, failed to get a second reading for his Secret Societies (Declaration) Bill. It would have compelled MPs, judges, councillors, police officers and all public servants to declare whether they belong to any closed societies which demand a commitment to secrecy and allegiance. It provided, in other words, for the compulsory "outing" of Freemasons in those jobs.

And who in their senses would oppose it? It would end the speculation as to who is and isn't, and who might be doing a favour. It would bring the Masons into the light of common day, where many outsiders would prefer them to be—including, according to Mr Mullin, an MP called John Major, who responded positively to his 1986 questionnaire. Yet the bill has found this government deeply unhelpful. It leaves a sour taste, particularly after other recent incidents of self-protecting secretiveness. Why shouldn't Freemasons in public jobs admit it? We would not throw rotten fruit at them.

No, really not. I am not as paranoid about Freemasons as some, because I live in provincial middle England and belong to a yacht club or two, so I meet these chaps. I have eaten with them, done business with them and organised Church Hassocks Embroidery Wool Fund Prize Draws with their wives. I am aware that they are not scheming villains. As for "outing", it is remarkably easy to do over the dinner table: all you do is relate a couple of wild stories about the brotherhood, and they break the surface like enraged moles.

Some are even anxious to debate. I have spent many a rewarding evening arm-wrestling with men in well-cut suits on the general subject of whether their secret society is an improper thing, a childish thing, a sinister thing, or good clean fun. I shall pay heavily for my rashness in writing this, because next time I try to get any photocopying done in the local bureau I shall be lectured by its masonic owner on the shining probity of all Masons in the district and county councils, local constabulary, school governing bodies, etc.

As one emotional Mason once put it to me over the port: "It is a brotherhood of good people, the best in the community. The cream." As for excluding ladies, "We don't exclude ladies. We revere our ladies. They rule us..." There are few beings on earth more passionate in self-defence than a middle-aged Freemason who suspects he is having the minkie taken out of him by some damn woman.

So no, I do not fear them. Nor do I want to join, nor can I find it in me to be misled on behalf of any woman who does. I do not think there is a national conspiracy, because some of those I have met over the years are men of integrity, and others clearly could not organise their way out of a paper bag. But whether or not they fix planning deals and make secret signals in court is not relevant. The point is that the general, non-masonic public suspects that they do.

And this is why we need the bill. Masonry, undeclared but hinted at, divides communities. In provincial towns it creates anger, gossip and formless resentment against "them". It is not comfortable to live with the existence of a loyal cabal of businessmen, and policemen, and councillors, and local newspaper editors. If publicly-salaried figures have sworn oaths to something other than public duty, we should know.

Especially, perhaps, since no Mason can ever be female, or—curiously—Roman Catholic. I had assumed that the old Vatican interdiction on Catholics being Masons was defunct, but checking over the weekend, I find it is not so. It was relaxed for a while in the 1970s, according to a church spokesman: "If, for example, it was essential to a man's business." But in the 1980s the Pope restored it. Perhaps he heard the continual protests of the Masons that they would never dream of favouring one another in business anyway. The ban is now total.

Which raises an interesting spectre: any opponents of women's ordination in Bishop Leonard's party who are also Masons (not an unlikely combination) might find the bosom of the Catholic church less cosy than they thought. Imagine being on the run from one organisation that betrays you by ordaining women, only to find yourself banned from your other, secular, woman-free area.

That should live up to the dinner party conversation a treat.

After a rare interview, Charles Bremner reports on Danielle Mitterrand's lifelong fight against injustice

A private audience with the conscience of France



Je ne regrette rien: Danielle Mitterrand says she has a feeling of "shouting in the desert: running into systematic bad faith"

People have a tendency to use words like "enigma" when they describe Danielle Mitterrand, the wife of François and France's longest-serving *première dame* since the monarchy. Shy, slight and intensely private, Mme Mitterrand can be glimpsed in the background on state occasions looking awkward, a silent consort in the tradition begun by "Tante (aunt) Yvonne" de Gaulle. But Danielle Guze-Mitterrand, 68, is also a former Resistance worker and old-time socialist whose permanent indignation over human suffering leads her into news-making scrapes. In the latest, last July, she was visiting refugees in the Kurdish area of northern Iraq when a bomb intended for her destroyed the car in front, killing four people.

Mme Mitterrand brushes off the attack, presumed to have been organised by Baghdad, saying she feels no bitterness. "It was just human stupidity, like there is so much of in the world." Ask what does make her angry and she lets go: "It's the feeling of shouting in the desert: running into systematic bad faith. That paralyses me, facing someone who says the exact opposite of what he thinks and then does the opposite of what he says."

Were it not for the Third World folk art on her walls, the miseries she champions could not seem further away as Mme Mitterrand talks in her office on the top floor of the Trocadero Palace which looks across the Seine. The view, as they say in New York, is to die for. This ministry of culture building is headquarters for France-Libertés, the humanitarian organisation which Mme Mitterrand set up in 1986 and the reason why she has written her first book and agreed to a rare chat about her life. Quiet and intense, almost feline looks. The first thing you notice is her youthfulness, the physical side of the girlish energy—some say naïveté—with which she has embraced her work for the down-trodden. "There are no lost causes because there is always something to be done," she says. "That's part of my nature. I do not give up, even when things look hopeless sometimes."

Well before the presidency, Mme Mitterrand had joined that global network of activists and revolutionaries whose rollcall of living and late names includes Che Guevara, Daniel Ortega,

Olof Palme, Nelson Mandela, and, of course, Regis Debray, the one-time guerrilla, politician and writer who is a close friend. Mme Mitterrand's causes have made her more popular in the polls than her husband, whose humanitarian convictions have sometimes been eclipsed by the realpolitik of 11 years in office. Is she more "socialist" than the Resistance leader she married in wartime Paris at the age of 20?

"No. I was completely made by my parents and by my husband. Infused by the teaching of my parents and by François's ethics for living," she says.

M. Mitterrand, who is eight years older, already had a name as a "grand résistant" when they met. He, according to the story, had seen her picture at a friend's house and announced that he would marry her. She was, she

says, simply attracted to him and fell in love. "I wasn't perhaps mature enough to explain the attraction... my parents detected his quality well before me."

Danielle Guze was the daughter of a free-thinking school-teacher whose troubles with the Catholic school authorities caused her to suffer her first injustice. At the age of six, the headmistress at her Breton school refused her the customary bonbon for coming top of the class because of her father's reformist outlook. She describes the incident as a seminal event in *La Leure du Pain* (the yeast of the bread), a book she has written to explain France-Libertés but which reveals much of herself. Does she miss those early years of resistance, then the birth of her two sons and the start of a career which made her the wife of the Fourth Republic's youngest minis-

ter in 1947? "No. You live your life. *Je ne regrette rien*," she says. "We had a very warm, close, family life then in the Resistance. I lived, like my generation, intensely, with our fears, our follies, our utopias. It was a test and a constructive one for most."

Mme Mitterrand's free-thinking approach was something of a revolution when her husband landed in the Elysée Palace in 1981 and she succeeded Anne-Aymone Giscard d'Estaing. Thanks to France's powerful taboo on media coverage of the family lives of politicians, she has managed to preserve her privacy and an existence quite independent from her husband's. The family home, at the rue de Bièvre, on the Left Bank, is off limits to

journalistic snooping. When M. Mitterrand entered hospital for his prostate operation and subsequent diagnosis of cancer in September, she stayed on a tour of Latin America.

However, just as in the United States, the first lady is supposed to confine herself to good works and not dabble in affairs of state. At home, she has not run into much trouble, although last week, she met the family of a young Arab who was shot dead by a baker's wife in Rheims. In a French equivalent to the Los Angeles police officers' trial, a white jury acquitted the woman, causing much protest.

Abroad, her crusade for human rights has repeatedly ruffled the diplomatic feathers of the Quai d'Orsay. As well as the Iraqis, she has infuriated China with her work for Tibet, upset King Hassan

II of Morocco and also the United States, whose policies in Latin America she derides in the language of an old-fashioned leftist. Still loyal to the romantic notion of communism, she warmly praises Cuba, and talks fondly of Fidel Castro. The American quarantine on Cuba is "the biggest international injustice," she says. "I'm going to be called back into line on this again, but I say what I think," she laughs. It is widely accepted, in fact, that by speaking out, Mme Mitterrand serves as a useful "conscience" for her husband, when his administration has followed French interests rather than ideals. "Perhaps I get in the way of diplomacy but I'm sure that we remain at heart loyal to the same ideals," she says.

Her critics among the opposition are sometimes scornful of Mme Mitterrand's work and her claims to be acting as a citizen who runs a non-governmental charity and who insists that "I have no power except the power of indignation". They point to the levers of state to which she has access and see her as a member of an imperial court where M. Mitterrand has appointed many friends and appointed his son Jean-Christophe, a journalist, as his adviser on relations with Africa. Her supporters dismiss the jibes. Claude Cheysson, the former foreign minister, told *Le Monde* recently: "You won't find many who will speak ill of her. If the diplomats howl over her actions, that's just fine."

France-Libertés, which operates with 20 staff and 45 committees around France, has pulled off some remarkable actions. Now Mme Mitterrand is thrilled over the success of one of her protégées, Rigoberta Menchú, the Guatemalan activist who this month won the Nobel peace prize. "It's one of our victories," she says. "We accompanied her on her first steps ten years ago."

When the talk gets round to human rights in France and the record of her husband's socialist reign, Mme Mitterrand becomes combative. Under his administration, France, she insists, has been transformed into a vast "field of freedom". She will have none of the talk of disillusion which has flooded the country as her husband's long presidency draws towards its scheduled close in 1995. "The talk does not correspond to reality. Look elsewhere and you will see France has nothing to be ashamed of."

Never shut a door on an American

Christina Afors advises companies how to tailor their products to suit national archetypes

If the stereotypical Englishman has a "stiff upper lip", why does he take so many painkillers? The is one of the questions that Christina Afors is paid £60,000 to answer.

Mrs Afors, who was born in Brazil, educated in France and America, did postgraduate research in England and has worked in Sweden, has an international business teaching what she calls "archetype studies" to companies who want to sell their products abroad. It was when she was working for a pharmaceutical company that she confronted the painkiller question. "The company couldn't reconcile the English stiff upper lip with the high use of pain killers in this country. Although they were selling well here they wanted to understand why," Mrs Afors says. "We discovered that although pain wasn't a big concern in Britain, a fear of lack of control through pain was, and people were taking painkillers before they needed them, for fear of losing control." She helped the same company market its product in Japan by discovering that the Japanese also found control important—but in a totally different way. "The painkillers weren't selling well there until we changed them from tablets to injection form. The Japanese wanted to show their bravery by giving themselves the injections."

A survey published this month by Research International and the Henley Centre for Forecasting suggested that companies would be wise to be aware of these stereotypes, and to work with them rather than against them.

But Mrs Afors warns that selling to stereotypes without adequate study can be dangerous. "A stereotype is a superficial, one-sided view of a culture," she says, "and who is perceiving that stereotype is very important because we carry a lot of our cultural bias with us. A British person would perceive that the French are always overstating themselves. Why? Because the English are always understating themselves."

Mrs Afors runs her business, Archetype Studies Europe, from London, where she lives with her Swedish husband and two children. Companies pay £60,000 for a single study, on, for example, how best to market their coffee in Japan or doors in

America. Additional studies (should they want to know how to sell the same item in another country) would cost between £18-£20,000.

A company wishing to market doors in America called Mrs Afors in after its advertising campaign failed to increase sales. They knew that Americans were very security-conscious and had been showing the doors closed and locked. Mrs Afors discovered that for Americans



Insights: Christina Afors

closed doors were closely associated with a sense of rejection. "A parent would put the child in the crib or playpen, kiss it goodbye and close the door." The advertisements were re-shot with slightly open doors, and the product began to move. "But such a campaign would not work in France," Mrs Afors says. "The French don't feel that way because they are not usually closed into a room as babies since there is not the same cultural emphasis on sleeping separately from parents."

Ultimately, Mrs Afors says, advertisers cannot fight cultural forces but must try to harness them. "I carried out a study for a French company that wanted to sell coffee in Japan," she says. "Traditional market research had indicated that it should be positioned in competition with tea. This strategy was ineffective. An archetype study revealed that tea was part of the fabric of Japanese life and that coffee should be marketed in Japan as a soft drink—preferably cold and mixed with soya milk." This was done and the product was a great success.

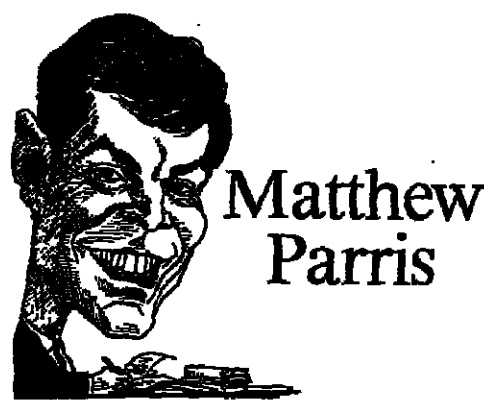
In her marriage she is constantly aware of the influence of cultural archetypes. "My husband and I are the complete antithesis of each other," she says. "In Brazil we never talk about sad things—it's a little rude to be sad in Brazil, and very little introspection is allowed. People live very much in the here and now and say 'let's be happy'. In Sweden people revel in sadness and introspection and spend long times discussing things which aren't pleasant. So whenever there's a crisis in our family I become over-optimistic and my husband over-pessimistic, but the children know how to deal with both of us."

VICTORIA MCKEE
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Sadly for Diana, she's often the last to know what's happening. Every week, it brings you up to date with the latest developments as well as the latest jobs. These days, with so much going on in teaching, it's vital to keep abreast of it all. But your prospects will never be good if you're poorly informed. The Times Educational Supplement is and always has been, indispensable for its coverage of all education issues. Order your own copy from your news-agent today. And be first in the know.

EDUCATION? DON'T ASK DIANA SANDS WHAT'S GOING ON.





Matthew Parris

A modest proposal that might alleviate the suffering of Sunday rail travellers

I made the mistake this weekend of attending the annual dinner of the Oxford Polytechnic Debating Society as guest of honour. The mistake, I hasten to add, lay not in choosing to spend time in their company. They gave me a marvelous evening and are a much better crowd than you find at Oxford's other institute of higher education. No, my mistake was in supposing that I could get there and back. My mistake was to think it practical to make a return journey from Matlock to Oxford by British Rail in two days.

Read on, for I will detain you only momentarily with my personal travel horror story. Going to Oxford on Saturday afternoon was accomplished with relative ease, took only three-and-a-half hours for the 100-odd miles, and landed me at Oxford station only half an hour late. I call that a good journey, by weekend rail standards.

It was coming back on Sunday when things fell apart. Briefly: the train to Birmingham was "refined" — reached Birmingham at 11.30am — I could see on the timetable no train to Derby before 5pm, though someone said there was a "special" timetable which advertised a train at 1.35 — I saw a train to Leicester leaving at 1.55 — foolishly took it — was an hour late — missed the connection to Derby — missed the connection to Matlock and... oh, let me bore you no further. I did get home, at 4.14pm. My journey had taken six hours. I think I could have cycled it in less time.

But, more to the point, I saw on the station platforms at Oxford, Leamington, Birmingham, Nuneaton, Leicester and Derby thousands of people having their Sundays wrecked. Your Sunday rail traveller represents a sort of public transport underclass. He or she is not a middle-class commuter, does not know any of the other people on the platform or in the carriage, and does not do this often enough or in sufficiently like-minded company to get fired-up enough to complain in any organised way. Commuters have political clout in the constituencies from which they come. Weekend stragglers, scattered in a miserable diaspora across railway stations nationwide as their slow trains fail to arrive, their connections are missed, and it's getting dark and starting to rain again, do not form a logical set, and will never march. Wretched squaddies trying to get back to camp, desperate mums with tired, whining children... oh, it was too awful, yesterday.

But to describe the misery does not solve the problem. There is a reason why services are slow and unreliable on a Sunday, and we do understand BR's difficulty. "Weekend engineering on the line". A railway needs maintenance, much of it is used to near capacity during the week, and Saturdays (a bit) and Sundays (in particular) offer a reduction in pressure which just about permits the necessary work.

It is not easy, however. Trying to work on the line and run trains over it at the same time is difficult and surprisingly dangerous. Track workers face an incidence of death and injury uncelebrated among the annals of more famously dangerous jobs, such as mining. Trains and track workers don't mix.

This brings me to my modest proposal, which is a serious one. Why maintain the pretence of a Sunday service at all? Why not replace trains on the Sabbath with substitute buses?

It proves almost impossible to maintain the timetable service, in itself relatively poor; there is no easy way of advertising the changes to passengers; and even those passengers who do acquaint themselves with revised timetables find that these services do not run on schedule.

Yet Sunday is the one day of the week when the roads are relatively clear. There are exceptions, of course, but in general you could run a Sunday coach service at speeds comparable with Sunday rail speeds, and with better reliability. I am not competent to judge the economic case, but see no reason why the idea should prove prohibitive. Buses would leave from railway stations which would remain open. Rail tickets would, on that day, be valid for road travel by BR sponsored services. The rail network would be afforded a full day in which to get stuck into repair and maintenance without the dangers and distractions of trying to keep a half-cock service running.

On the London Underground they don't make that effort, but close the whole system down for about four hours every night and desperately — and it is a fairly desperate endeavour — try to fit the work in then. They succeed: but the cost is a Tube system which finishes far too early at night. London, too, could benefit from a Sunday suspension of Underground rail services. The roads are mostly clear, the buses underused. A replacement bus service, such as the Docklands Light Railway already offers, would work well. The reward from this change would be a weekday and Saturday service enabled to operate until the small hours, as it ought to.

Well, there's my plan. It will not be uncritically received. There will be practical objections which it will be necessary to weigh: but, in weighing them, it is useful to remember that in the world of steel tracks and steel wheels there is a knee-jerk reaction against any transport proposal which involves asphalt surfaces and rubber wheels. I'm afraid there is a strand of railway thinking which avers that there ought to be a train because — well, because there ought to be a train. This is bound up partly with emotional loyalties and partly with the unconscious fear in many railway minds that there are circumstances in which their favourite sort of transport would not benefit from a four-square comparison with the other sort. Start running buses from station to station on a Sunday, and — who knows? — if it works, someone might suggest Saturday, and Monday, and...

But such reasoning is never admitted to. Other objections will be found. Little in life affords me greater pleasure than discovering the many ingenious official reasons why my bright ideas would not work. I look forward to hearing them, in this case.

Studies showing the Tories with a firmer than expected hold on power are too simple, says Peter Riddell

Is Labour locked out?



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

In all the political turmoil of the past couple of months, it has been easy to forget that John Major won the general election just over seven months ago. He obtained his own mandate. But was the Tory victory then an aberration, reflecting special circumstances which no longer apply, as some Labour leaders argue?

Of course, there were special circumstances last spring. There always are. But in April they were not all favourable to the Conservative party. The conventional view at the time, as reflected in the pre-election polls, was that the Labour party had fought a far more effective campaign. The Tories won, so the argument went, in spite of their campaign. That suggests that much of the introspective analysis during the campaign missed the point.

Labour also highlights the short-lived surge in Mori's economic optimism index in the spring. That reflected hopes that economic recovery would begin once the uncertainties of the election were over. But it was a false dawn. So Labour MPs argue that if voters had known the economic situation would deteriorate rather than improve,

they would have made a different choice.

But these rationalisations are unconvincing. Labour lost decisively. The emphasis on the government's narrow 21-seat majority ignores the far more significant electoral point that the Tories' share of the vote was 7.6 points ahead of Labour. This was much larger than the victory margin of Bill Clinton, with a similar share of total votes, over George Bush three weeks ago.

There is little consolation for Labour in academic analyses of the election which have just started appearing. These underline the long-term decline in Labour's position since the early 1970s. David Butler and Dennis Kavanagh, the authors of the Nuffield study *The British General Election of 1992*, maintain that "Nineteen ninety-two must be seen more as a vote to end John Major's first term than as an endorsement of Mrs Thatcher's record. But it appears more clearly still as a

rejection of what was offered by Labour and raised again questions about the party's future as a party of government." The result "confirmed the Conservative dominance over Labour and the imbalance in the British party system".

Similarly, in an election issue of *Parliamentary Affairs*, Richard Rose argues that last April Labour performed roughly five percentage points better than its projected underlying trend. On his view, the hope for a Labour majority in Parliament in 1996 is "Micawberism run mad". Its non-competitive status means that Labour cannot be considered to be the alternative government.

Such studies, with their frequent conclusion that Britain faces continuing one-party government, look far-fetched after

the past 10 weeks. But while their conclusions are over-determined, the underlying analyses remain valid. Labour cannot win just by assuming continued Tory mistakes. John Smith would almost certainly win an election this week, but there is unlikely to be one for at least three to four years.

Tony Blair recently argued that the necessary and sufficient conditions for victory are not just the government's failure but also the Opposition's will to articulate the case for change in a convincing way. On his view, the Clinton victory proves that it can be done, not that it is inevitable. The Clinton parallel is intriguing. The president-elect distanced himself from the Democrats' past failures, while identifying himself with the aspirations of ordinary workers for better education and health care. He suggested that change was possible, even though he travelled light on specific policies.

That is a plausible path for

Labour. Mr Blair believes that Labour has to demonstrate that it is changing itself if it is to persuade people that it can change the country. Hence Labour needs to signpost new approaches, benefiting from what he sees as disillusionment with the failures of market theology. The measures in the Autumn Statement were at least a partial acceptance of a more active government role in promoting recovery, as Labour has urged. Over the next year, Labour also needs to make its internal structure more democratic. At present it is uncertain both whether Labour will change itself sufficiently and whether that will be enough to win an outright majority. But without change, defeat is certain.

The Tories' troubles obviously matter. While they have a strong underlying position, their success in April reflected Mr Major's ability to present himself as the head of a new government and to unify the

party after the divisions of 1990. But underlying tensions, particularly over Europe, have now resurfaced and the government is having to deal with the policy errors of the late Thatcher era. Mr Major's personal standing has also been severely shaken. He has shown determination where it matters — over, for example, the Gair talks — but his abilities as a leader with a clear strategy remain in doubt. That is why the climbdown over pit closures and the Matrix Churchill affair have been so damaging. They raise questions about the government's competence and integrity.

Mr Major still has plenty of time to recover, provided the economy does. But that is not a certainty. He has lost much of the political initiative and authority he won in April. Mr Bush's defeat is a warning. Long-serving administrations run out of steam and ideas. And public opinion may be shifting towards support for more activist government, even if not yet for higher taxes. Last April's victory can neither be forgotten in the light of the subsequent dramas, nor does it mean that the Tories are bound to win again.

Life's a hit and then you die

Disposable people are a logical development for the throwaway society that we have become, writes Bernard Levin

Well, just how are the mighty fallen?

Today, we shall try to discover the answer to this ancient riddle. The present keeper of the secret, strange as it may seem, is a pop singer (the crown and sceptre are handed on to the next secret-keeper very quickly indeed — sometimes the turnover is a dozen changes in a day), whose name is Luke Goss. Five years ago, he, together with his twin brother Matt, also a warbler of sounds and sweet airs that give delight and hurt not, were making "records which went straight to Number One". More: "Their music was the teenage craze of the Eighties". Nay, "Girls mobbed the teenage pin-ups", and "bulging wallets paid for flash cars".

Then, fugaces, as Luke and Matt would put it. For only a few weeks ago Luke's house was repossessed. The double garage, moreover, no longer gives shelter to a Porsche, and indoors the £7,000 oak-panelled kitchen cooks not a single hamburger, nor do the gold credit-cards fling open the doors of the most expensive men's outfitters and the most fashionable restaurants, as once they did. Creditors abound, but bundles of money to pay them do not; it is said that the brothers owe in all £480,000, and yet in their brief heyday under the name Bros — O, brief indeed — they earned £12 million.

Put something aside for a rainy day? Bah! The sun is shining. What if the next record does not find favour? Pish! The last one did. Suppose the girls drifted away? Fie! Didn't you see that blonde one with the big boobs?

The brothers Goss have put themselves into the hands of an accountant, who seems a most staid man; he keeps them from despair, imposes upon them a firm budget, collects money they are owed and pays off, bit by bit, what they owe. But he also comments on the

disaster, and one of his remarks seems to me to be well worth examining in detail. He said: "The Smash Hits type of audience is very fickle and it's difficult to make the transition."

Now I say — and I do — that Beethoven had no such problem, not even with the last quartets. I will be dismissed as just another voyeur, come to peer through the bars of penury and gloat over the empty cashbox. But, to my own surprise and no doubt that of my readers, I feel considerable sympathy with the two stranded youths (they are only 23 even now). Their music is not mine, but I do not believe that their very substantial success was the product only of the hype-makers and other dreadful creatures that lurk in the shadows of success, and leech onto another innocent when the current one goes down the plughole.

At the time I sat my finals, the Biro had just appeared: my mother bought me one for luck. It was the same shape, colour and texture as today's best Mont Blanc, and cost about the same — that is, a fortune. (Well, I did get a good degree with it, didn't I, Mum?) But the point is that this precious tool had a most ingenious method of refilling, and neither my mother nor I could have dreamt that one day Bires would be bought for a few pennies, and that nobody would bother to seek refills, because it was simpler and no more expensive to throw them away and buy another.

We live in the disposal era. Fewer and fewer objects are made to last; instead, it is easier to make and sell what is wanted in a form that makes it disposable. But what should be startling, and isn't, is that in the throwaway category we now include human beings.

Not literally, or at any rate not yet, though we are getting very close to it if the unemployment figures are any guide. But Luke



Unmade by the market: Luke and Matt Goss are symbols of our fast-turnover fashions

and Matt Goss depict, in their misery, the picture of disposable people. Step by step you can match the used soup-can with the used pop-singer; first, into the supermarket where both are on offer, then eat, drink or listen to the product, and finally toss it into the dustbin.

And the parallels do not cease

there. We throw away things that we have finished with, and we buy other things in their place — perhaps because a better gewgaw has come on the market. We throw away singers we have finished with, and we buy other singers — no doubt because a more pleasing singer has come on the market. Nor,

indeed, does he need to be more pleasing; it is the newness that counts. For the disposable society is not just a convenience; it is a drug that we must have, lest we miss something which refreshes our palates.

Our two warblers had not forgotten how to warble, nor had they lost their voices. Nor, I

would wager, had their musical inspiration deserted them. It was the money-man who put his finger on the place where the fabric was starting to unravel; for all I know he listens to nothing but Brothel and Bonlee, but he said "The Smash Hits type of audience is very fickle and it's difficult to make the transition".

And in what way did that fickleness show itself? By the audience voting with their feet, not necessarily because they had come to dislike the music they had hitherto revelled in, nor even because they had found it repetitious; but because they had looked at their watches and realised it was time to move on.

That, of course, is where Beethoven scores heavily in the long-run: music was there is no need for his audience to look at their watches, because they can go back to the beginning any number of times without ever wishing to move on. The wretched pabulum of our throwaway world constantly demands different fare, all unknowing that every time a new dish is served up it is exactly the same as the stuff that it is replacing.

Suppose that Luke and Matt had noticed the audience getting restless, and suppose they had been able to come up with a new genre: it would have availed them nothing, for there is no bottom to the disposal society's dustbin, and no end to the fickleness of the customers. You no doubt notice that supermarkets regularly change their goods round, so that Flapdoodle Cornflakes, which yesterday were on this aisle, are now on that aisle. But did you know why? It is because the disorientated customers are then given to believe that Flapdoodle plc has come up with a brand new cornflake, when in reality it hasn't even redesigned the box.

Why we go into this increasingly minimalist way of life is not difficult to see. Everything must be easy, and anything that is difficult is ignored or waved away; an attention span mustn't be longer than a moment, and effort is stunted or laughed to scorn. Is it a coincidence, do you suppose, that the supreme of BBC music hints that more "easier listening" will be provided? If so, Luke and Matt will no doubt be first in the queue.

Naught for their credit

THE NEWS from the Royal Bank of Scotland that it is to cut 3,500 jobs has caused a frisson of personal concern among Tory politicians. The RBS is banker to the Tories, and when it announced that one of the reasons for the redundancies was growing bad debt, it might well have had the party in mind. The Tory overdraft is said to have risen to about £17 million.

So worried are some members of the party that, for the first time in its history, more than 50 constituency associations have banded together to call for the democratic accountability of Central Office. Among other things, they want to see it publish a balance sheet with its report and accounts.

John Strafford, spokesman for the Reform Steering Committee, says: "In the space of three years we have gone from paying no interest to paying £1.75 million a year to service the debt. The state of the finances is of increasing concern to the grassroots of the party." They are not alone. One senior party figure, who did not wish to be named, said: "It's an awful lot of money. We are in serious trouble."

While Strafford applauds Sir Norman Fowler's reforms of Central Office he believes the turnover of Tory chairmen, five in five years, has exacerbated the problem. During Kenneth Baker's reign, Central Office was refurbished at a cost of £3.5 million. Strafford says: "The Tory party has banked with the Royal Bank of Scotland for some time. Obviously with George Younger as chairman of the bank there are strong links, but I would imagine that the bank must be concerned."

It is not clear where the funds will come from to pay off the overdraft. The depth of the recession has been mirrored by the shallowness of the pockets of the Tories' supporters from the world of business and finance. Many of the constituency associations themselves are strapped for cash. Central Office's Smith Square building was the subject of a sale and leaseback agreement in the early 1980s. Even the energetic Lord Archer averages only £5,000 per fund-raising evening.

Party wages are predicting that the raffle market may soon be flooded with bottles of House of Commons malt whisky photographed by John Major.

● Jacques Delors may have baffled the Prince of Wales with Eurojargon during the latter's



DIARY

visit to the European Commission last Thursday, but the prince managed to cause some confusion of his own. He was listed in the French bulletin as the prime minister of Wales.

Normal services

A CHUNK of British history went up in flames with Windsor Castle on Friday, but one centuries-old custom has been safeguarded. The pupils of St George's School, who have sung Evensong at Windsor Castle every day during term-time since 1352, have refused to break with tradition despite the chaos over the past three days.

St George's Chapel was not affected by the fire and a service was held as usual on Friday. Headmaster Bernard Biggs says: "There were fewer people than normal but that was only because there was restricted access to the castle. Many of the lay clerks — adult male chorists — gave up working on the salvage operation to come to Evensong before going outside to help again. We sang unaccompanied by the organ as we do every Friday."

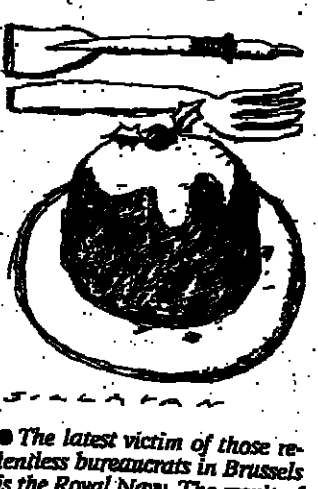
The 106-member prep school was founded by Edward III in the 14th century and is in Home Park, part of the castle complex. Staff and boys had a spectacular view of the blaze from the school buildings. "It went up like a Roman candle," says Biggs.

Desert storm

THE Department of Trade and Industry's export-control department found itself in the unusual position of playing to a packed house on Friday. The cause of the excitement was a seminar on exporting which was attended by more than 130 businessmen and government officials. A bemused Ray Smith, director of export licences, had

representatives from such politically sensitive companies as Westland, British Nuclear Fuels, Marconi and Rolls-Royce hanging on his every word.

But if they were hoping for clarification on the issue which some believe could eventually bring down the government, they were disappointed. Smith made it clear that he would take no questions on the issue which Churchill affair. One delegate asked about learning from past mistakes, but "it was seen as an unhelpful interruption. What I did discover is that while you may be able to export bomb-making components to Iraq, you can't export antiques."



● The latest victim of those relentless bureaucrats in Brussels is the Royal Navy. The result of

a new EC directive is a ban on the stirring of the Navy's giant Christmas puddings in the traditional way — with a wooden oar — on the ground that it is unhygienic.

Broad canvas

WHILE thousands are expected to flock to the Camille Pissarro exhibition at the Royal Academy of Art next summer, the cognoscent will be making the trip across town to the Portland Gallery in Holland Park Terrace, which is playing host to the rest of the family.

There are 17 painting Pissaros spread over four generations, and the work of many of them, including Camille's great-granddaughter, Lelia, will be represented in the exhibition. Taught by her grandfather, Paul Emile, and her father, Hugues Claude, she continues the family tradition of impressionistic landscape painting. "I tried painting abstracts but it just did not feel right," she says almost apologetically. Lelia, who owns some of her great-grandfather's drawings, has already bought her three-year-old daughter Kalia an easel. If she follows in her mother's footsteps fame may not be far off. Lelia sold her first painting at the age of five and exhibited at the age of eleven.



HOUSE OF WINDSOR

Little focuses public attention so well as a fire

Hardly had the flames died over Windsor Castle on Friday night, than it became fashionable to ask what they meant. Commentators were as quick with answers as firemen with their hoses.

Yesterday *The Sunday Telegraph* opined about "the warning to the nation in Windsor's ashes". To many frustrated conservatives the event has already become a shot across the bows of the puritan and the puritanical, a minatory lesson for the tabloid press and the tax-the-Queen sections of her parliament. "In this sense, if in no other, the fire may serve a good purpose", the newspaper claimed.

For others optimism goes further: just as the Great Fire of London grinded away the plague and gave us Christopher Wren, so will the little fire of Windsor restore the monarchy to public health and make much needed work for traditional craftsmen. Local councillors already talk of scholarships in the art of gargoyle-manufacture.

The country's professional doomsayers did not allow themselves to be outdone. In a remarkable piece, *The Independent* on Sunday suggested "the ominous feeling that the Windsor fire is symptomatic of the country at large, that it stems from the new national characteristic of ineptitude. Nothing seems to work as it used to. ... Not even a royal palace blazes in the night". Its writer concluded weightily: "Fate frowns down".

True, Britain today is not in a golden age. But to link the national mood to a fire? It is as though the writer were joining Voltaire and Rousseau's reflections on the Lisbon earthquake of 1755. The armies of reason have surely advanced on many fronts since. Voltaire argued that 30,000 earthquake deaths denied God's providential government of the world and Rousseau replied that they were a lesson to benighted city-dwellers to live in low-rise housing.

As the real-estate begins, rationality must be allowed a rapid return. Windsor Castle should be rebuilt. But it was not wise for the

government to promise so quickly that the taxpayer would find the tens of millions of pounds that will be required. Some of the most heartening reactions to the fire have been the spontaneous offers of money from citizens and friends. The monarchy is in sore need today of proven popular support. It would be unfortunate if a commitment to Windsor's inexorable restoration at public expense were to stanch the flow.

Her Majesty might also want to consider whether she too should commit personal funds for the project. Despite the protestations of MPs she is under no legal or moral constraint to do so: Windsor Castle is in the same category for financial purposes as Hampton Court, which was restored at public expense after the fire of 1886; the buildings destroyed on Friday were not even the private apartments of the castle. The Queen might, however, see some benefit to the House of Windsor in contributing to the reconstruction of its castle. Her opportunities to do so are not now foreclosed. But they could have been left more open.

The history of Windsor Castle is a cross-section through the history of the whole country. No loyal Briton could take pleasure in the sight of its burning. But, as we survey the rubble, it is important to avoid the wrong conclusions. Those blackened halls are not a harbinger of doom. They are not symptoms of national failure. They are not even an interruption of a great British building's life: they are an essential part of it. Just as old forests can renew themselves by fire, so can old castles. It was ever thus.

There will doubtless be much financial wrangling before the lost splendours are restored. But anyone who thinks that alien to royal tradition at Windsor should consider the plans of Edward III to build a new "Round Table" and tower for 300 Arthurian knights in 1344. Four years later, after much argument, a more economical symbol of chivalry was found, the Order of the Garter.

NUCLEAR CLIMATES

A good decision in 1977 may not be so good now

As if to illustrate the maxim that nothing in politics is ever finally settled, an argument laid to rest 15 years ago has risen from the grave to haunt ministers. Within the next six months the thermal oxide reprocessing plant (Thorp) at Sellafield in Cumbria is due to begin operations, converting spent fuel from nuclear plants at home and abroad into uranium, plutonium and waste.

In theory there is no problem. The arguments for and against the plant were rehearsed in a three-month public inquiry held in Whitehaven in 1977, under Mr Justice Parker. Opponents of the plant argued that it would be uneconomic, that it would increase radioactive emissions and that it would contribute to the risk of nuclear proliferation by fostering an international trade in plutonium. Mr Justice Parker ruled that the plant should go ahead.

In 1977, nuclear power was still generally believed to have a prosperous future. Reprocessing, the technique by which unused uranium and the plutonium in the spent fuel are recovered for use in further reactors, was still thought to be a key stage in the transformation of uranium ore into plentiful and cheap electricity.

Today, £1.85 billion later, the arguments for reprocessing are less persuasive. The government's recognition that fast breeder reactors have no immediate future kicked away one of the props. Its Radioactive Waste Management Committee, a commendably independent body, has concluded that reprocessing cannot be justified simply on the grounds that it eases the handling of nuclear waste.

THE TANGLE OF TRAINING

Britain's convoluted and ineffective system needs reform

In a special report today, *The Times* investigates the failures of the much-vaunted "skills revolution" and the ineffective use of the government's £2.8 billion training budget. A gallery of experts levels the charge that a poor strategic response to the skills shortage has jeopardised Britain's long-term economic prospects and sold the taxpayer short. From the dock, Gillian Shepherd, the employment secretary, admits that the jungle of training schemes on offer is "indeed a muddle" and "immensely confusing".

After years of bland political rhetoric, this admission is as sensibly frank as it is alarming. In 1990, only 37 per cent of 16 to 18-year-olds were in full time education, and less than 20 per cent of the rest were taken on the Youth Training Scheme, which guarantees a training place to school-leavers. Not surprisingly, Britain trails its industrial competitors in this respect. Adverse comparisons between British methods and the spectacularly well-defined training structure in Germany are now a commonplace in industry.

There are more acronyms than sense in the current system. In Britain, school-leavers face what Mrs Shepherd calls an "alphabet soup", in which 4,000 qualifications are offered by 300 different bodies. Some of the 82 Training Enterprise Councils — set up in 1990 to administer government funds to regional needs — have found it difficult to fill their boards with volunteer businessmen. The promise of local diversity has often withered into confusion and apathy.

Worse, the divide between academic and

vocational tracks remains all but absolute, in spite of new modular courses which should allow interaction between the two. Educationists continue to speak shamelessly of training as a way of dealing with the "less able", instead of encouraging a broader definition of ability itself. Public recognition of vocational qualifications remains low, a problem compounded by their omission from the school league tables launched last week.

This gap will only be closed if the new further education councils develop stronger links between industry and the FE colleges which are to be withdrawn from local authority control on bloc next April. Private firms themselves could be given greater incentives to take on trainees by a system of performance-related pay that rewarded teachers for their contribution rather than their presence. The introduction of formal traineeships, tying employer and employee to agreed targets, might also emerge the rather jaded system in which many "trainees" are glorified runners learning next to nothing.

There are no pat solutions to this cultural blind spot and the inefficiency it has spawned, especially in a recession which has drained private-sector resources. But, just as John Patten, the education secretary, has stamped his authority upon the schools service, so he and Mrs Shepherd must strive to clear up the current mess in vocational training. This does not mean mimicry of the rigid German system; it does mean firm and unambiguous leadership.

Principles and choices raised by the case of Tony Bland

From the Archbishop of York

Sir, Your leading article on the Tony Bland case ("When life is no life", November 20) is sensible and compassionate, and I agree with its conclusions. You are right, too, to emphasise that each case is unique. Doctors have an inescapable responsibility to exercise personal judgment in individual circumstances. I believe you go too far, however, in seeming to assume that there are no clear principles on which these enormously difficult decisions can be made.

The principle that human life should not be deliberately taken has been, and must be, defended. This principle is not violated when treatment is withdrawn from someone whose continued survival depends upon the use of techniques which, in the particular circumstances, are judged to be excessive, and merely prolong an insensate condition from which no recovery is possible. Judgment about whether or not an insensate condition is complete, or permanent must depend upon the passage of time.

In the Tony Bland case, more than three years in a persistent vegetative state was evidence enough that no recovery was going to take place. When the criterion is met, it becomes reasonable to ask whether treatment with antibiotics or artificial feeding methods become in those circumstances excessive.

Clearly the wishes of relatives in such cases are an important factor in the equation. The basis of the decision, however, needs to be seen as a principled one, and I believe that despite the inevitably fine distinctions which have to be made, some ethically sound and workable principles have in this case been upheld.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN EBOR,
Bishopthorpe Palace,
Bishopthorpe, York
November 20.

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, The ruling in the Tony Bland case by Sir Stephen Brown, president of the family division of the High Court, (report November 20) causes me concern.

You say in your leading article that each such case must be considered separately on its merits and that this one must not be regarded "as a generalised precedent for others", but we need a general formulation of what the law of homicide is: that is the nature of law.

You report the judge as saying that the approval of the court should be sought in similar cases "as a safe-

guard and for the reassurance of the public". It is not for the court to license homicide, so presumably the judge is saying this is not homicide because in law the patient is already dead. If that is so the court will have no jurisdiction in similar cases to approve or disapprove, and reference to it cannot be necessary.

You also say in your report that the ruling grants immunity from a homicide prosecution. This is a further confusion, since the courts have no power to grant such immunity. By our constitution that power is vested solely in the attorney general and those acting under him.

When Sir Stephen Brown draws up his definitive judgment, upon which the Court of Appeal will pronounce, it would be helpful for him to include in it a statement, in quasi-legislative terms, of what the law now is. I offer the following:

For purposes of the law relating to homicide, an unconscious person shall be deemed to be dead if, although his brain retains some functioning, he is permanently incapable, through brain damage, of regaining any degree of consciousness.

It may be said that this proposition should apply to the law generally. If somebody like Tony Bland had left a will, at what point in time would it take effect?

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS BENNION,
62 Thames Street, Oxford.
November 20.

From Mr John Quigley

Sir, I agree with the plea in your leader that "the implications of this judgment need to be examined with unsentimental rigour".

The crucial philosophical question is: does a human being have a right to life? If the answer is "yes", no one has the moral right to take a course of action which is intended to result in the death of Tony Bland. If the answer is "no", no one can criticise any taking of human life. I do not believe that the answer can be "sometimes".

The law should follow and reflect moral principles. If human beings have a right to life, the law should never condone in advance a course of action intended to kill someone. Murder should be a (perhaps the most) serious criminal offence. It is for a jury to decide on guilt or innocence, and for a judge to decide on sentence, taking into account all the circumstances of the case.

Dr Nigel Cox was convicted by a jury, tried leniently by a judge, dealt with compassionately by the General Medical Council, and is being al-

lowed by his employers the possibility of returning to work (reports, November 21, 18, etc.). The net effect of Dr Cox's case is that the moral principle and the law remain intact, but it is recognised that in those particular circumstances Dr Cox should not be punished.

I hope that the Court of Appeal will reverse Sir Stephen Brown's decision.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN QUIGLEY,
Flat 3, 56 Lavender Gardens, SW11.
November 21.

From Mr Martin Spencer

Sir, The case of Tony Bland raises the most profound moral problems, which must be faced squarely. The issue is whether he should continue to be fed; if he is not, then he will starve to death, although the immediate cause of death may be a medical complication associated with malnutrition.

If, then, death by starvation is inevitable, and avoidable, is there any moral difference between that and giving an injection to kill the patient outright? If not, then there is no moral difference between what the law has sanctioned in Tony Bland's case (subject to the Court of Appeal) and what the law has condemned as attempted murder in the case of Dr Nigel Cox.

It thus appears that the law makes a distinction between omission and commission, a wholly technical distinction from the moral point of view, and I believe it cannot be right that law and morality diverge so starkly.

Surely, if we are not to start down the slippery slope which has, at the bottom, decisions on the quality of life and on who, in the arbitrary judgment of certain individuals, has the right to live or die, the only safe criterion for doctors to apply is the maxim "Thou shalt not kill, nor strive officiously to keep alive".

Thus when someone like Tony Bland develops an infection such as pneumonia, which is nature's kind way of dealing with his comatose state and bringing him to natural death, is not the solution for him not to be treated with antibiotics so that nature takes its course?

The danger of the decision of the High Court is that it could lead to extraneous factors, such as the availability of transplant organs or allocation of resources, coming to play a part in these difficult decisions, with doctors being forced to play the role of God.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN SPENCER,
4 Paper Buildings, Temple, EC4.
November 22.

Implications of government secrecy over decisions on exports to Iraq

From Mr Jon Kimche

Sir, Your political correspondent reported (November 18) that according to "Downing Street officials" the foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, chaired the cabinet committee which, two weeks before the invasion of Kuwait, decided to ease the export of military-related machinery to Iraq.

In the light of the prevailing Iran-Iraq ceasefire it was considered proper to reinterpret the existing guidelines more liberally. That was, we now know, when the Iraqi armed forces had already begun their deployment for the attack.

The much more important questions that have not been asked and surely ought to be answered now are these: Since the foreign secretary, or at least his permanent under-secretary at the Foreign Office, is the nominal chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), was that committee's assessment sought by or given to Mr Hurd's cabinet committee meeting in mid-July, 1990?

Did the cabinet committee ask the JIC for an appraisal of possible or probable Iraqi military intentions at that time, two weeks before Iraq moved its troops into Kuwait, before recommending the "liberalising" of military-linked supplies to Iraq?

Did any one minister ask for intelligence guidance concerning Saddam's rebuilding of Iraq's armed forces to such a phenomenal extent? Iran was then no threat to Iraq, nor

were Saudi Arabia, Jordan or Kuwait. Against whom, then, was this massive military force directed? What had happened to all that wonderful intelligence provided by the businessmen who had been encouraged to supply Iraq with arms and machines?

Perhaps the answer was given at the very beginning of this affair with the same disarming candour as that of Mr Alan Clark (report, November 10) which ended the honeymoon phase. In London in September 1990, just five weeks after the Iraqi occupation, Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister said (report, September 6, 1990) that the Kuwaitis had financed the Iraqi military build-up because they had believed it was intended for the liberation of occupied Palestine.

Was the Cabinet committee told by the JIC that Saddam was really no threat? No other explanation makes sense.

Sincerely,
JON KIMCHE,
Camilla Lacey Lodge,
Westhumble, Surrey.
November 19.

From the Director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information

Sir, I was astonished at Simon Jenkins's extraordinary assertion (article, November 18) that "Matrix Churchill has surely been a disaster for freedom of information". Surely, the effect is the opposite. It has undermined the government's claim that ministers can be trusted to make

impartial decisions about the release of information.

Ministers, senior officials and government lawyers appear to have seen documents showing that the defendants were acting with the knowledge and encouragement of government and that one was actively assisting the intelligence services.

Not only was the prosecution not stopped, but certificates seeking the suppression of information essential to the defence were signed. The suggestion that ministers were obliged to sign has been widely challenged.

Many people were deeply shocked to learn that the court was told that the documents contained nothing which could support the defence case — a demonstrable falsehood which could have led to the men's imprisonment.

The implication is that ministers used their control of official information to protect themselves from embarrassment, regardless of the cost to the defendants.

I believe that anything which restricts ministers' power to behave in this way will now have overwhelming public support. The most immediate opportunity will be Mark Fisher MP's Right to Know Bill, to be debated in the Commons on February 19.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE FRANKEL,
Director, The Campaign for Freedom of Information,
88 Old Street, EC1.
November 19.

Contributions of our history men

From Mr Paul Fletcher

Sir, As a retired teacher of English I should like to give three cheers for Daniel Johnson's article, "The dead hand of the history men" (November 14), in which he pleads for a return to the once widely accepted view of history as "an important branch of literature", of interest to the general reading public as an enquiry into what has happened on our planet to "the Family of Man".

This last phrase, part of Johnson's quotation from Carlyle's 1866 inaugural address as rector of Edinburgh University, may also serve to remind us of the importance of history in schools, where the emphasis should be on understanding what has happened to our own nation and to all members of "the Family of Man".

Yours sincerely,
PAUL FLETCHER,
104 Main Street, Dregghorn,
Irvine, Ayrshire.

From Professor G. I. T. Machin

Sir, Daniel Johnson left out the opposing evidence. He writes: "The shift away from high politics and high culture towards more exotic subject matter, though popular with specialists, has not found favour with a wider public."

How does he explain the huge sales of a book like E. P. Thompson's *The Making of the English Working Class*, which deals with (notably non-esoteric) low politics and low culture? It is unnecessary to accept the marked personal bias in this book in order to recognise it as a striking combination of literary skill and academic ability.

Accusations that contemporary historians have a narrow focus are not going to be countered by a return to exclusive concern with "high politics and high culture". In any case such accusations carefully omit to mention recent broad approaches such as John Roberts's *Pelican History of the World*.

Yours faithfully,
G. I. T. MACHIN,
University of Dundee,
Department of Modern History,
Dundee DD1 4HN.

From Mr S. P. Whitley

Sir, I read Daniel Johnson's article with agreement and enjoyment but was surprised that he should preach the gospel of Macaulay and Trevelyan without even mentioning their names.

Yours faithfully,
S. P. WHITLEY,
Flat 2, 5 Palmeira Avenue,
Hove, Sussex.

From Dr P. J. D. Gething

Sir, Your report of November 17 states that the Right to Know Bill would introduce a legal "public interest" defence against prosecutions under the 1989 Official Secrets Act. The supporters of the Bill imply that there is no such defence at present.

Under the main provisions of that Act the prosecution has to prove that there has been a disclosure of information damaging to the national interest. Given this severe criterion for a successful prosecution, it is surely open to any defendant to try to prove that the disclosure was, on balance, in the national interest.

A purist could argue about a possible distinction between the national and the public interest, but there is no need for the defence to do so.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. D. GETTING,
26 Dukes Mead, Fleet, Hampshire.
November 17.

From Mr John L. Finlay

Sir, One wonders who now would work for British intelligence. What businessman will seek to gather information abroad now? What "controller" in London can now assure his agents that the British government will protect their privacy?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. FINLAY,
Southgate, Fulmer Way,
Caversham, Buckinghamshire.
November 17.

Sitting pretty?

From Mrs Ann Hughes

Sir, The Lord Chancellor (letters, November 16, 17, 18, 20) should sit on a sack filled with junk mail. This would symbolise jointly the undoubted wealth of those who send it out and the supposed wealth of those who receive it.

Yours faithfully,
ANN HUGHES,
Fiddlers Green, Castledore Road,
Tywardreath, Par, Cornwall.

From Mr Martin R. Cooper

Sir, Since we have apparently stopped producing anything of note and are told that our only significant wealth arises from "invisibles", may I suggest that the Lord Chancellor either sits on an empty sack — or preferably wears it as a reminder of our regrettable demise.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN R. COOPER,
1 Old Rectory Meadow,
Denver, Downham Market, Norfolk.
November 16.

No dog at Palace

From Dr Julia Schofield

Sir, Although I was named MBE in the June Birthday Honours I was dismayed to find that at my investiture on December 1 my guide dog would not be allowed in the Palace. This decision has made an enjoyable occasion into one of stress, for it is unlikely that a stranger from the Palace staff, however well-meaning and kind, will be such an able guide as the dog who works with me each day.

Members of the royal family are patrons of most of the charities for the visually handicapped, including the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. In a society where guide dogs are admitted to shops and offices, the question has to be, why not the Palace?

Yours truly,
JULIA SCHOFIELD
(Managing Director),
Julia Schofield Consultants Ltd.,
The Old Workshop,
Retreat Road, Richmond, Surrey.
November 20.

Clerical dress

From the Reverend Michael Northwood

Sir, Neither in your report (November 9) nor your letters (November 16) on designer clothes for women priests is there any mention of hats. Surely it is very feminine for a woman to wear a hat on a formal occasion such as going to church.

I have seen women on duty as choristers, organists, churchwardens and even funeral directors wearing hats in church. Why not clergywomen, especially considering their wish not to be seen as male clones?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL NORTHWOOD,
Saraboga,
Long Grove, Seer Green,
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.
November 16.

Letters to the editor that are intended for publication should carry a day-time telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Drugs in prison

From Mr John B. Hunter

Sir, Judge Tunim's observation that drugs are easier to obtain in prison than they are outside (report, November 17) is well known to all inmates and staff of her Majesty's prison system.

From personal observation over the last three years I would estimate that, if you included marijuana as a drug, then 70 per cent of inmates are involved with drugs. My first exposure to crack cocaine was at HMP Pentonville in 1989 when a room-mate asked me if I had ever seen any. When I said I hadn't he promptly showed me some that he had gotten in on a visit.

The Home Office position is that there is no drug problem in the prisons; there isn't, we have plenty.

Sincerely,
JOHN B. HUNTER
(US citizen),
E Wing,
HM Prison Blandford,
Lowestoft, Suffolk.
November 17.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 22: The Duke of Edinburgh, International President of W.W.F., World Wide Fund for Nature, arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening from Argentina.

The Lord Buxton was in attendance.
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 21: The Prince Edward, Patron, the Scottish Badminton Union, this afternoon attended the semi-finals of the Glasgow Carlton Scottish Open Championships at the Kelvin Hall International Sports Arena, Glasgow, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Glasgow (Mr Robert Innes, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

His Royal Highness this evening attended the Players' Party at the Royal Concert Hall.
Lieutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 21: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, Scottish Children's League, this afternoon received members of the Society's Centenary Committee at Haddo House, Aberdeen.
Mrs Charles Vyvyan was in attendance.

November 21: The Duke of Gloucester this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport at the conclusion of his Royal Highness's visit to the United States of America.
Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Professor Colin Adamson-Macdonald, electrical engineer, 70; Mrs Anne Burns, former gliding champion, 71; Mr John Cole, broadcaster, 65; Mr Bruce Edger, cricketer, 35; Colonel Sir Alan Gilmour, Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland, 76; Mr Michael Gough, actor, 75; Sir John Hermon, former chief constable, RUC, 64; Mr Lew Hoad, tennis player, 58; Sir David Lees, chairman, GKN, 56; Mr Christopher Logue, poet and author, 66; Mr Alan Mulvey, footballer, 51; Mr Krzysztof Penderecki, composer, 59; Mr Anton Poot, former chairman, Philips Electronics and Associated Industries, 63; Lord Prosser, 58; Miss Diana Quick, actress, 46; Sir Peter Saunders, theatrical producer, 81; Sir Peter Strawson, philosopher, 73; Professor John Tann, former chief vice-chancellor, Liverpool University, 58; Mr Nigel Tranter, author, 83; Lieutenant-Colonel George West, former comptroller, Lord Chamberlain's Office, 55.

Dinner

The Old Plymouth and Massamend Club
The 44th annual dinner of the London section of the OPM Club was held on Friday, November 20, 1992, at the Rubens Hotel, Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1. It was attended by 85 former pupils of Plymouth College, 74 of whom were members of the OPM Club. The dinner was held in the presence of Mr John Chapman, M.C., who welcomed the guests. Mr A. Morsley, headmaster of Plymouth College, Mr A. Joyce, former headmaster, Mr T. Stevens, Plymouth College staff for the President of the OPM Club, Mr R. Foulkes.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend a reception at St James's Palace at 6.30 to mark the millennium of the Shrievalty Association.
The Duke of Edinburgh, as Ranger of Windsor Great Park, will plant a tree in the Great Park at 2.30 to commemorate the millennium of the office of High Sheriff.

The Princess Royal, as Chief Commandant of the WRNS, will visit Gutter Tor, Devon, at 9.45; as Patron of the Butler Trust, will visit HM Prison Dartmoor at 1.00; and, as Patron of the National Association of Victims Support Schemes, will attend the annual meeting at the Earl's Court Hotel at 5.00.
The Duchess of Gloucester, as Chief Patron of the Women's Carving Trust, will attend the House of Lords House of Commons charity swim at Dolphin Square at 8.00pm in aid of the trust.

Eltham College

Old Elthamians' Day this year falls on Saturday, December 12. All Old Elthamians are very welcome to watch the rugby (kick-off at 2.30pm) and to join the Headmaster and staff for tea at 4.15pm in King George's Hall, RSPV in the presence of the Secretary by Friday, December 4.

By MICHAEL J HENDRICK,
ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT

The night sky in December

By MICHAEL J HENDRICK,
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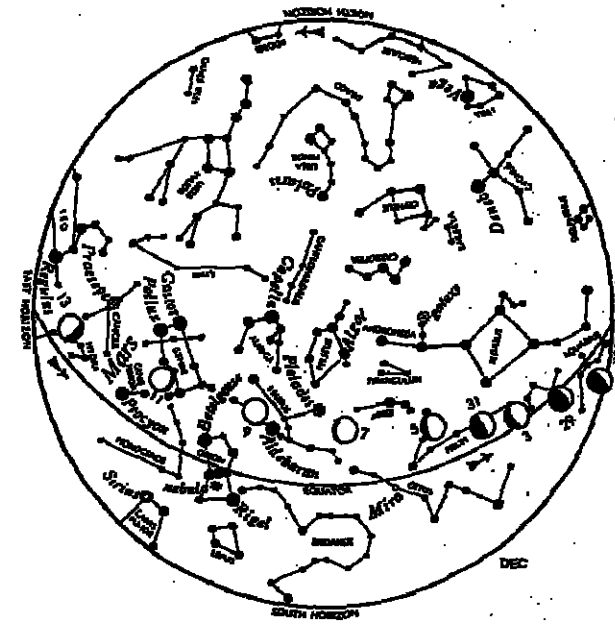
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The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London (51° 30' N) at the beginning, 22h 00m, and at the end, 22h 30m, of the month. The Moon is shown in its position at the beginning and end of the month. The diagram is intended to be used in conjunction with the accompanying notes on the opposite page.

in the month and begins again at 05h 45m and 06h 05m.
Algo, the variable star in Perseus, fades from its normal brightness of 2.1 to 3.4 magnitude every 69 hours. It can be seen when faint this December about the following times: 8d 00h, 11d 03h, 13d 23h, 16d 20h and 31d 04h.
The Geminid meteor shower reaches its greatest activity on the night of the 13th/14th when as many as 75 meteors per hour may be seen radiating from near the bright star of Castor. The waning gibbous Moon will spoil observing later in the night.
There will be a total eclipse of the Moon on the 9th/10th visible from the British Isles. An eclipse of the Moon occurs when it passes into the Earth's shadow. The Earth, illuminated by the Sun, casts a shadow into space made up of an outer cone and an inner cone. The Moon may enter just the outer cone or penumbra (in which some sunlight falls) or the inner cone or umbra (in which no direct sunlight falls). If the whole Moon is immersed in the umbra, the eclipse is said to be total.
The eclipse starts at 21h when the Moon enters the penumbra: it is not visible until 22h when a definite darkening on the eastern limb should soon be noticeable. Totality starts at 23h 07m with mid-eclipse at 23h 44m and at the end of totality at 0h 21m. The Moon leaves the umbra at 1h 30m and the penumbra at 2h 33m.
Sometimes the Moon is easily visible during totality, an orange or coppery red in colour. Darker eclipses may be grey or brownish while very dark eclipses make the Moon almost invisible at mid-eclipse.
The Earth's atmosphere bends or refracts some sunlight into the umbra so that it can still illuminate the Moon faintly even during totality. The condition of the Earth's atmosphere determines the colour and brightness of the Moon during a total eclipse. This eclipse is expected to be very dark on account of the large amount of volcanic debris still circulating in the upper atmosphere from the Mount Pinatubo and Mount Spurr eruptions.
Total eclipses of the Moon do not occur every year and not all can be seen from any one place on Earth. This December's eclipse is not to be missed if the sky is clear.
Comet P/Swift-Tuttle has been brighter than expected, already 5.5 magnitude by mid November and showing a narrow tail to the north. By early December the 5th magnitude comet will be low in the west after dusk some 20 degrees below the bright star Altair and perhaps showing an upward pointing tail.
Unfortunately conditions will worsen each evening as the comet moves lower and the Moon brightens. Use binoculars as soon as it is dark enough to see the stars. After perihelion on December 12th the comet will move into the southern skies and begin to fade.
P/Swift-Tuttle is the parent comet of the Perseids meteor stream. A very close approach to the Earth is possible at the next apparition about the year 2126. Astronomers will track the comet with large telescopes for many years to establish its future orbit as accurately as possible.

By MICHAEL J HENDRICK,
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Forthcoming marriages

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OBITUARIES

PRESIDENT KAYSONE PHOMVIHANE

Kaysone Phomvihane, president of Laos and secretary general of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, died in Vientiane on November 21 aged 71. He was born on December 13, 1920.

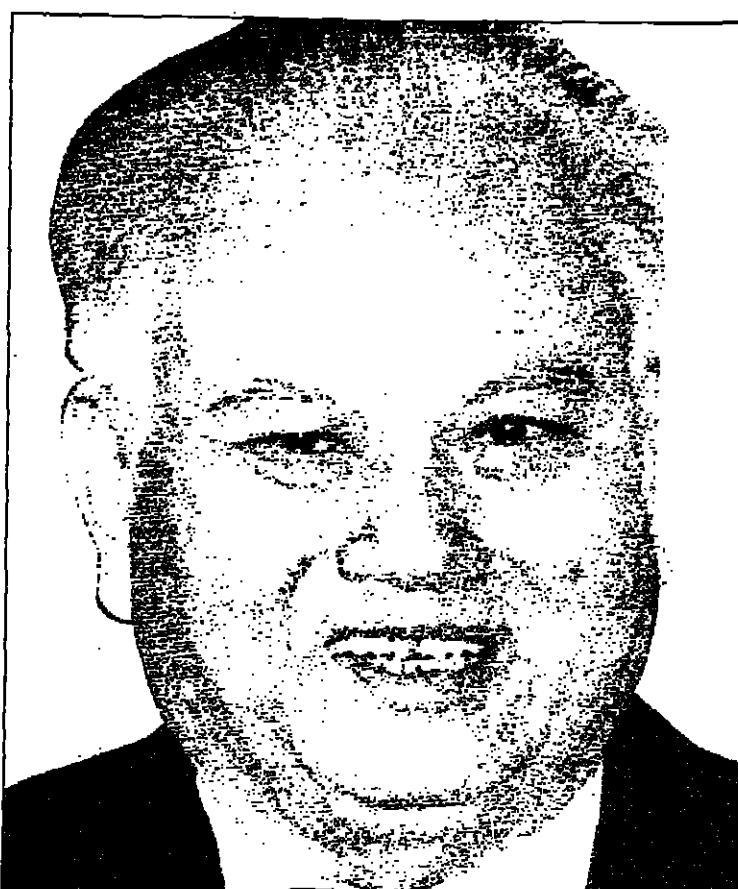
KAYSONE Phomvihane was one of the last of the old-style communist dictators still in power. He was among the revolutionary leaders in Laos who, in 1975, ousted his party's coalition partners, abolished the country's 600-year-old monarchy and allowed the last king, Savang Vatthana and his wife, Queen Khamphoui, to perish in a political re-education camp. Kaysone had led the Lao People's Revolutionary Party since 1955 and had helped to direct three decades of revolution against first France and then the American-backed regime in Vientiane. He was prime minister from 1975 to August last year when the national assembly elected him president, with enhanced powers, in succession to his long-time comrade, Prince Souphanouvong.

Kaysone rarely ventured outside of Laos and was virtually unknown abroad. As a founding member of the Indochinese Communist Party, he was a friend and contemporary of Vietnam's late president, Ho Chi Minh, and the victor of Dien Bien Phu. Marshal Vo Nguyen Giap, and he maintained close relations with the Hanoi authorities.

But in recent years he became a more pragmatic figure who reformed the Lao economy and slowly began opening up his landlocked country to foreign capital in an attempt to overcome its chronic under-development.

Kaysone Phomvihane was born in the southern panhandle province of Savannakhet. His mother was a Lao peasant and his Vietnamese father was a civil servant for the French who ruled Laos at the time.

He grew up in a strongly disciplined family. He studied Buddhism and became fluent in Thai, Shan,



French, English, Lao and Vietnamese. He studied law at Vietnam's Hanoi University and became involved with student activities under the wing of the fledgling Indochinese Communist Party.

"In those days I never, never gave a thought to communism or socialism," his biography quotes him as saying. "But I believed that the Soviet Union would defeat the Hitlerite fascists."

Kaysone received his first military and political training from the Viet Minh and was sent back to Laos by

Ho Chi Minh to join the anti-French movement when revolutionaries began laying the foundation of what was to become the Lao Patriotic Front, or Pathet Lao, and the power behind it — the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.

Kaysone returned to Vietnam in 1945. In 1949, he was made commander of the Free Lao Revolutionary Army and became one of the Indochinese Communist Party's first Lao members.

When the Free Lao Front was established in 1950, Kaysone was

appointed to the clandestine government's central committee and was made defence minister. Five years later the Lao Revolutionary Party was founded, and he was elected its secretary-general and made commander of the Pathet Lao army.

France's control of Indochina ended at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, and an internal struggle for control of Laos ensued. Kaysone unsuccessfully sought election to parliament in 1958, then fled with other Pathet Lao leaders to Sam Neua, their headquarters in northern Laos.

In 1959, he was named vice president of the Pathet Lao central committee. The stocky revolutionary's rapid rise has been attributed to his intellect and organizational ability — and his close ties with North Vietnam.

During the Vietnam war, when Kaysone headed the communist Pathet Lao, Prince Souphanouvong, the "Red Prince," was the best known of the Lao leaders, only because Kaysone, who was a conspiratorial figure in those days, preferred to maintain a background role, operating from the Pathet Lao's cave base in Sam Neua near the Vietnamese border, frequently heavily bombed by US aircraft.

When the war in Laos ended in 1973, the Pathet Lao concentrated on consolidated power by eliminating the Vientiane side from an embryonic coalition government. This culminated on December 2, 1975, with the abolition of the monarchy, the ousting of opposition coalition leaders, and the appointment of Kaysone as prime minister and Prince Souphanouvong as president.

Kaysone was a burly figure who favoured white suits and dark sunglasses. According to his official biography he loved cock-fighting as a youth and was a keen boxer and exponent of judo. He was a security conscious, especially after a third assassination attempt in 1977.

For most of his life he strove to

eliminate Western influences and forge a more structured society.

In recent years, however, following the changes in eastern Europe, he relaxed controls over the economy and permitted some private enterprise and foreign investment. He had never before tolerated political dissent but had scheduled elections in December for the national assembly. And during the past two years, he allowed the release of most political detainees, including army officers from the pro-Western regime held in labour camps since communist victories in Indochina in 1975.

Recently, too, he emphasized his withdrawal from Hanoi's direct orbit by improving relations with China.

Announcing his death, Lao state radio called Kaysone an outstanding, talented and clear-sighted leader of our party, state and nation, and said his death was "a very great loss for our Lao party, state and people."

Others will never forgive him for the banishment of King Savang Vatthana, a patron of Buddhism and a patriot who sometimes wept publicly as the warring factions, backed respectively by North Vietnam and the United States, brought death and destruction to Laos.

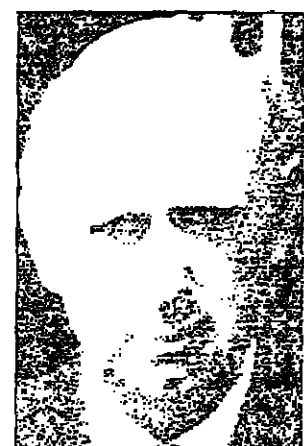
For years, visitors to the royal capital at Luang Prabang were shown the king's palace, but embarrased guides would look away when asked what became of the king and queen, then say quietly, "The king has gone to the north," a euphemism for death in a re-education camp where the royal family reportedly received little food or medical care.

When he went to France in 1989, Kaysone was asked at a press conference what had happened to King Savang, whose fate had been a mystery for 12 years. "I can tell you the king died of natural causes," he said. "He was very old. It happens to all us."

The king and queen are believed to have died in their detention camp in north east Laos in 1981.

JOSEPH SKEMP

Joseph Bright Skemp, emeritus professor of Greek in the University of Durham, died in Weston-super-Mare on October 10 aged 82. He was born on May 10, 1910.



GENERATIONS of students of Plato have been introduced to the Platonic dialogue the *Statesman* through Joe Skemp's translation first published in 1952 and republished in Bristol in 1987, with a short reply to opponents on one central issue. Only now, 40 years on, is a serious rival being planned.

Skemp was appointed professor of Greek at Durham in 1950, after 11 years as a fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge and short stints at Manchester and what was then King's College, Newcastle. His two main scholarly publications were *The Theory of Motion in Plato's Later Dialogues* (1942), a study of the physics of the *Timaeus*, and his translation, with long introduction and notes, of the *Statesman* for nine years from 1955. He was also co-editor of *Phronesis*, a specialist periodical in the field of ancient philosophy which still retains the solid reputation which he and Donald Allan succeeded in establishing for it.

From a modern perspective, his concerns, and his style, are likely to seem old-fashioned, but they rest on hard and durable scholarship. When judging someone's life, said Solon the Athenian, we should "look to the end." Joseph Skemp was one of those rare and happy people the whole of whose lives can be seen to have fitted together. Brought up as a Baptist, he always retained

his faith, and lived as many — whether Christian or not — might wish to do: thoughtfully, with generosity, and without guile. He was constitutionally incapable of passing off one thing as another.

He liked to talk, in an unhurried, deliberate way, whether the subject was some practical issue, a theological question, or something to do with the interpretation of Greek philosophy. He usually knew where he stood, but — like Plato — wanted also to discover reasons for his believing what he did.

His studies into the continuities between Greek and Christian thought (as in his book *The Greeks and the Gospel*, published in 1964) reflected the real continuity between his academic and his personal life: each was, in part, an extension of the other.

Sadly, his declining health caused him to miss a large international gathering the Third Symposium Platonicum which took place in Bristol in August. Joseph Skemp was widowed in 1987.

PROF A. V. STEPHENS

Professor Vervan Stephens, formerly founder head of the Department of Aeronautical Engineering at The Queen's University of Belfast, died on September 3 in the King Edward VII hospital in Midhurst. He was 84.

VERYAN Stephens worked as a scientific officer with the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, where he developed a vertical wind tunnel to study the behaviour of the aeroplane in a spin.

Spinning at that time was a highly dangerous manoeuvre that was not fully understood. After Farnborough, he returned to Cambridge to be-

come a fellow of St John's before moving to the University of Sydney where he held the chair of aeronautical engineering. He also became dean of engineering at Sydney.

Veryan Stephens was educated at Clifton College, Bristol, and at St John's College, Cambridge, where he took the mechanical sciences tripos. He joined Queen's in 1956

to found the department of aeronautical engineering. He was Dean of the faculty of engineering from 1961 to 1964 and a vice-president of the university, with special responsibility for buildings, from 1964 to 1967.

During this period, he also served on the UK Aircraft Research Council.

RED MITCHELL

Red Mitchell, jazz bassist, died in Salem, Oregon, on November 8 aged 65. He was born in New York on September 20, 1927.

ALTHOUGH a New Yorker by birth, Red Mitchell came to prominence in the so-called "West Coast" school of jazz which emerged in and around Los Angeles in the early 1950s. Best known, perhaps, for his work with the pianist Hampton Hawes, he was a thoughtful technician whose mobile, horn-like phrasing influenced a number of younger players.

Keith Moore Mitchell was a relatively late starter on the double bass. He originally studied piano and originally to play the instrument while studying engineering at Cornell University.

His career changed course after he was drafted into the army, while serving in Germany he is said to have bought a bass with 15 cartons of cigarettes.

After returning to civilian life, he played in clubs on 52nd Street in New York absorbing lessons from the musicians around him. For some time he continued to earn a living as a pianist while honing his skills on the bass. At the end of the 1940s Mitchell began touring and recording with Woody Herman's big band. After being



hospitalised with tuberculosis, he returned to active duty with the vibraphonist Red Norvo. In 1954 he joined the popular quartet led by the baritone saxophonist Gerry Mulligan and, following an engagement on the West Coast, he decided to settle in California.

The next year he began an acclaimed partnership with Hampton Hawes, a brilliant but wayward pianist who later served five years in prison after being arrested on a heroin charge. Hawes described his first meeting with Mitchell in

his compelling autobiography, *Raise Up Off Me*. Hawes recalled that he had been told about Mitchell by the owner of one of Los Angeles's leading venues, The Haig: "I drove down there, and I met Red Mitchell, and I think we might have fun playing together," I said. "Well, let's go in and see." Four bars into "All the Things You Are" I turned to him and said, "I think we're going to have fun together."

Mitchell was present on the classic Hawes recording, the

three-volume *All Night Session*, taped over one night in November 1956. The two men were briefly reunited in the mid-1960s after Hawes was released from prison, and they were due to go on tour together at the time of Hawes' death in 1977.

Mitchell formed his own quartet in 1957, and recorded the album *Presenting Red Mitchell*. He also worked with Billie Holiday and the young Ornette Coleman.

Like so many other West Coast musicians Mitchell was attracted by the steady employment offered by film and television studios. In 1950 he became principal double bass with the MGM studio orchestra, while continuing to play on the jazz circuit.

By the end of the 1960s, disaffected with cultural and political conditions in America, he moved to Stockholm, working steadily and recording for various European labels.

His albums included *I Concentrate On You*, a collection of duets with the alto saxophonist Lee Konitz (on which Mitchell also played piano).

Mitchell formed his own group, Communication, with whom he toured the US. Among the last albums credited to him is *A Declaration of Interdependence*, a 1988 solo session with overdubbed bass, piano and vocal parts.

PERSONAL COLUMN

RENTALS

HALLAM ST W1 4RT Port. land 3 bed flat, 2nd floor, modern kitchen, central heating, gas, 1st floor, 2nd floor, 3rd floor, 4th floor, 5th floor, 6th floor, 7th floor, 8th floor, 9th floor, 10th floor, 11th floor, 12th floor, 13th floor, 14th floor, 15th floor, 16th floor, 17th floor, 18th floor, 19th floor, 20th floor, 21st floor, 22nd floor, 23rd floor, 24th floor, 25th floor, 26th floor, 27th floor, 28th floor, 29th floor, 30th floor, 31st floor, 32nd floor, 33rd floor, 34th floor, 35th floor, 36th floor, 37th floor, 38th floor, 39th floor, 40th floor, 41st floor, 42nd floor, 43rd floor, 44th floor, 45th floor, 46th floor, 47th floor, 48th floor, 49th floor, 50th floor, 51st floor, 52nd floor, 53rd floor, 54th floor, 55th floor, 56th floor, 57th floor, 58th floor, 59th floor, 60th floor, 61st floor, 62nd floor, 63rd floor, 64th floor, 65th floor, 66th floor, 67th floor, 68th floor, 69th floor, 70th floor, 71st floor, 72nd floor, 73rd floor, 74th floor, 75th floor, 76th floor, 77th 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NEWS

Currency upset puts strain on EC

John Major and his senior ministers today embark on a hectic round of shuttle diplomacy in an attempt to salvage some credit for Britain's EC presidency in the run-up to the Edinburgh summit in three weeks' time.

With the European exchange-rate mechanism in turmoil and France threatening to scupper the transatlantic farm deal adding to the Maastricht crisis, the summit promises to be the most strained in the Community's history. Page 2

MPs demand fire money from Queen

As firefighters yesterday kept watch to douse the last dying embers of the blaze at Windsor Castle, the question of who should pay for a restoration that will run into tens of millions of pounds flared into life. Offers of money poured in but some MPs called on the Queen to contribute. Page 1

Slow justice

The crisis over an acute shortage of High Court judges, described by the Lord Chief Justice as "scandalous", has deepened, with warnings that the commercial court, estimated to generate £500 million a year, is grinding to a halt. Page 3

Irish change

The leader of the Irish Labour party predicted a decisive breakthrough in this week's general election with gains of at least nine seats. Dick Spring, buoyed by opinion poll findings making him by far the most popular choice as taoiseach, said the political landscape in Ireland was about to change. Page 2

Bragg plan

Melvin Bragg's call for an "arts council of the airwaves", which would issue licence fee money to commercial television stations as well as to the BBC, will be given a lukewarm reception in today's green paper on the future of the corporation. Page 5

Commercial pirates

Britain's manufacturing industry has lost an estimated 100,000 jobs because of profits stolen by pirates worth at least £1 billion a year. Local authorities with trading standards departments will be trying to clamp down. Page 6

Echo of Franco

Franco is back. His old guard and young neo-Nazis held their annual rally on the seventeenth anniversary of his death, in the Plaza Oriente in Madrid in front of the royal palace. Page 9

Turkish hopes

Suleyman Demirel, the Turkish prime minister, carries his country's campaign for greater integration in Europe to London today where he will have lunch with John Major. Page 9

Blockade imposed

Nato and Western European Union ships backed by air sea reconnaissance aircraft and AWAC spy planes clamped a full naval blockade on the rump Yugoslavia in the Adriatic with power to stop and search vessels suspected of breaking the United Nations embargo. Page 12

Hong Kong fears

China's sustained campaign of threats and propaganda is beginning to dent public support for Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong, in his attempt to bring greater democracy to the colony. For the first time since he unveiled his package of constitutional reforms six weeks ago, the public is questioning the wisdom of confronting China. Page 13

New light

The painstaking progress of Howard Carter over the 32 years rushed in to fill the nation's chronic skills gap are dismissed by many experts as shortsighted and unreliable. Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, believes that there is "indeed a muddle". Page 8

Seven skiers killed by avalanche

Two British students were among seven skiers killed as an avalanche swept down a piste in Europe's highest ski resort. Roderick Arkell, 22, of Tyne and Wear, and Christopher Maxwell, 21, from Bristol, were almost at the end of the black-classified Beranger run in Val Thorens in the French Alps when they were overtaken by tons of wet snow. Page 1



Home front: a little Bosnian boy is comforted by his mother after his father left to fight the Serbs on the front near Travnik. Page 12

Anatole Kaletsky: Unless recession gives way very soon to strong recovery Britain will face a new economic peril: far bigger government deficits than under Labour; in fact, the biggest deficits ever recorded outside Italy. Page 38

Evangelical action: British Coal has confirmed that it has notified union representatives at all its 50 pits that redundancies may be declared at some time in the future at all its 50 pits, including the 19 previously thought safe. It says the action has been taken to comply with employment legislation which requires unions to be notified if there is even the slightest hint of future redundancies. Page 40

TRAINING SCHEMES

Muddled policy: Government hopes for a "skills revolution" have come too late to help Britain out of recession. Training schemes rushed in to fill the nation's chronic skills gap are dismissed by many experts as shortsighted and unreliable. Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, believes that there is "indeed a muddle". Page 8

Rallying: Andrew Longmore signs

a sinister piece of paper committing his life into the hands of Colin McKee, potential winner of the Lombard RAC Rally. Page 23

Football: Blackburn Rovers moved into third place in the Premier League by drawing 1-1 with lowly Southampton. Page 21

Dressed for laughs: When the news broke that the BBC intended to screen *Absolutely Fabulous*, fashion PR shuddered. For the past two weeks they have tuned in wondering if this will be the night they see themselves pilloried. Page 14

School for parents: Parental participation is a popular theme of the moment. But how are parents supposed to become involved? Page 33

Architecture: Marcus Binney pre-

views a show of designs for sacred buildings that will be part of next month's Venice Biennale. Page 29

Opera: Rodney Milnes takes excep-

tion to Peter Brook's abridged reworking of Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* in Paris. Page 29

Dance: John Percival reviews the Royal Ballet's revival of *My Darling*, created by Sir Kenneth MacMillan. Will the work of the choreographer receive due attention now that he is dead? Page 31

Cinema: Geoff Brown welcomes

the decision to make Britain a member of Eurimages, a body that assists in funding for international co-productions. Page 31

Je ne regrette rien: "There are no lost causes because there is always something to be done," says Danielle Mitterrand, the wife of Francois and the longest-serving *première dame* in France since the monarchy. Her shy manner conceals a rage against injustice. Charles Bremner reports. Page 16

National archetypes: From coffee

to painkillers, a study of national archetypes can help to sell products abroad. If the stereotypical Englishman has a "stiff upper lip", why does he take so many painkillers? Christina Afors is paid £60,000 to answer this and other questions which help companies sell their products. Page 16

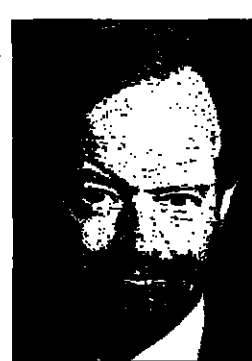
There is a reason why rail services are slow and unreliable on a Sunday, and we do understand BR's difficulty: "Weekend engineering on the line" ... This brings me to my modest proposal, which is a serious one. Why maintain the presence at all? Page 16

The Archbishop of York and others

examine the principles at issue in the case of Tony Bland. Page 17

The home of the reigning

Queen and it lends its name to the ruling dynasty. Damage to the fabric serves as a metaphor for damage to the royal family. Page 17



Robin Cook, shadow trade secretary, said that responsibility for the breach of the Iraq embargo went far wider than one former minister. Page 2



Benazir Bhutto, the Pakistan opposition leader, will attempt to board a train to Islamabad today defying an order banning her from the capital. Page 13

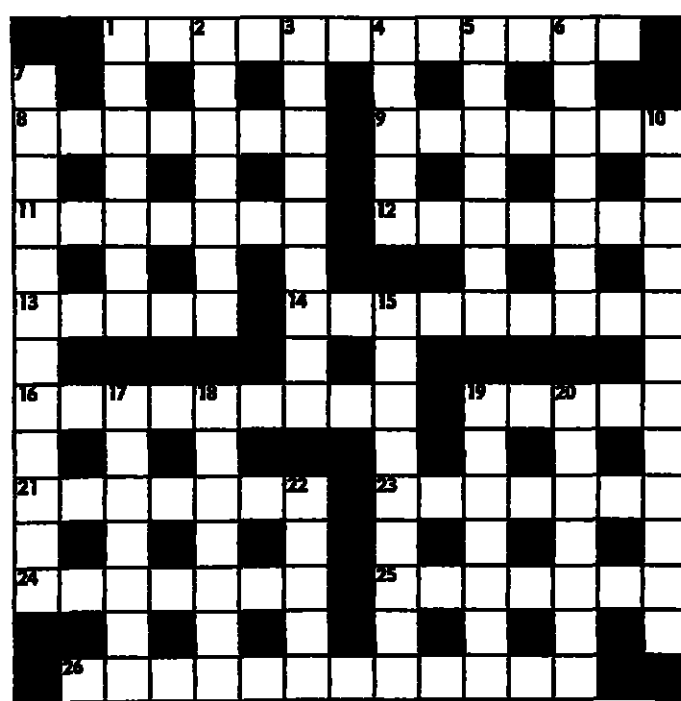


President Fujimori, who has assumed dictatorial powers, led Peru in voting for a new congress which will rewrite the constitution. Page 13



Boris Becker on his 25th birthday won the ATP world championship final, and £700,000, with a straight-sets victory over Jim Courier. Page 22

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,083



- ACROSS
- Not favouring writing to the unit on call-up (12).
 - A couple of wingers - the one getting lost ran off. (7).
 - ... and the other disputes (7).
 - He takes a pragmatic attitude where a catalogue is concerned. (7).
 - Bear with male in charge of family representation (7).
 - A Greek character, timid and over-emotional (5).
 - Playing a video can offer escape (9).
 - Alter the sitting of the stove at the back (9).
 - Point to point say (5).
 - Visible perspicacity (7).
 - Do whatever is needed to maintain such a tree (7).
 - Tract of grassland left wild (7).
- DOWN
- Regards metal container as an offensive object (7).
 - Slip in English and French candle-ends without notice (12).
 - A weapon made of copper lasts anyway (7).
 - There's nothing to it! (7).
 - Studies before school to oblige (9).
 - Popular scene to make an extra page (5).
 - Got browed off when glasses were lifted (7).
 - Some sporting people who never see the way ahead (7).
 - Regal residence a Roman writer finds a trial (5-7).
 - The man on the gate at the cricket match? (6-6).
 - Went beyond the limit - even port's been ordered (9).
 - Refrain that causes a sailor to colour (7).
 - The leftist getting a blow in is delighted (7).
 - Boy occupied by press operator (7).
 - "London is the - of our times, and the Rome of today." (Emerson) (7).
 - A tribute paid in parliament - it heartened a minister (5).



The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,082 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

Concise Crossword, page 40

THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Great Britain	701
North	702
West	703
East	704
South	705
North-East	706
North-West	707
West Midlands	708
East Midlands	709
South-East	710
South-West	711
London	712
Wales	713
Wales & S. Wales	714
Wales & N. Wales	715
Wales & E. Wales	716
Wales & W. Wales	717
Wales & S. Wales	718
Wales & N. Wales	719
Wales & E. Wales	720
Wales & W. Wales	721
Wales & S. Wales	722
Wales & N. Wales	723
Wales & E. Wales	724
Wales & W. Wales	725
Wales & S. Wales	726
Wales & N. Wales	727
Wales & E. Wales	728
Wales & W. Wales	729
Wales & S. Wales	730

Weatherall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

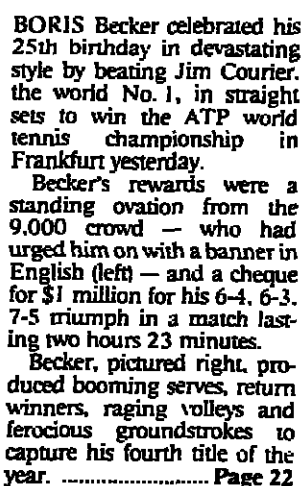
Region	Forecast
Great Britain	731
North	732
West	733
East	734
South	735
North-East	736
North-West	737
West Midlands	738
East Midlands	739
South-East	740
South-West	741
London	742
Wales	743
Wales & S. Wales	744
Wales & N. Wales	745
Wales & E. Wales	746
Wales & W. Wales	747
Wales & S. Wales	748
Wales & N. Wales	749
Wales & E. Wales	750
Wales & W. Wales	751
Wales & S. Wales	752
Wales & N. Wales	753
Wales & E. Wales	754
Wales & W. Wales	755
Wales & S. Wales	756
Wales & N. Wales	757
Wales & E. Wales	758
Wales & W. Wales	759
Wales & S. Wales	760

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

It will be cloudy and windy over England and Wales. All areas will have rain and drizzle, most frequent in the north and west, with hill fog. More persistent rain will return to Scotland this morning, spreading south to a line from the South West to the Wash by midnight. Wind southwest fresh, locally strong, reaching gale force over Northern Ireland and Scotland. Remaining mild. Outlook: unsettled and windy, with rain at times.

ABBREVIATIONS

MOON: 1=full, 2=three-quarters, 3=half, 4=first-quarter, 5=new, 6=crescent, 7=waning, 8=old, 9=young, 10=old, 11=new, 12=crescent, 13=waning, 14=old, 15=young, 16=old, 17=new, 18=crescent, 19=waning, 20=old, 21=young, 22=old, 23=new, 24=crescent, 25=waning, 26=old, 27=young, 28=old, 29=new, 30=crescent, 31=waning, 32=old, 33=young, 34=old, 35=new, 36=crescent, 37=waning, 38=old, 39=young, 40=old, 41=new, 42=crescent, 43=waning, 44=old, 45=young, 46=old, 47=new, 48=crescent, 49=waning, 50=old, 51=young, 52=old, 53=new, 54=crescent, 55=waning, 56=old, 57=young, 58=old, 59=new, 60=crescent, 61=waning, 62=old, 63=young, 64=old, 65=new, 66=crescent, 67=waning, 68=old, 69=young, 70=old, 71=new, 72=crescent, 73=waning, 74=old, 75=young, 76=old, 77=new, 78=crescent, 79=waning, 80=old, 81=young, 82=old, 83=new, 84=crescent, 85=waning, 86=old, 87=young, 88=old, 89=new, 90=crescent, 91=waning, 92=old, 93=young, 94=old, 95=new, 96=crescent, 97=waning, 98=old, 99=young, 100=old, 101=new, 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753=young, 754=old, 755=new, 756=crescent, 757=waning, 758=old, 759=young, 760=old



Habitats must be selected from one of 22 bowhunting areas in the Bowditch Tract and its immediate vicinity. A minimum of 14 acres must be provided in the case of Fort Leona, Bowditch, 2 consecutive years. All bowhunting areas include a minimum of two glades. Personal recreation on a tract must be taken run through Bowditch Tract and its immediate vicinity, which, stock list (Offer) (see Appendix C for 1994).

Courier left with No. 1 ranking as consolation prize from ATP championship

Becker ends year with happy return to top form

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN FRANKFURT

A CHEQUE for just over £700,000 is a good enough birthday present, even for the man who has everything. But more important to Boris Becker as he won the ATP championship final with a straight-sets victory over Jim Courier yesterday, was not so much the happy return which greeted his 25th birthday, but a happy return to the form that made him the most feared player in the world two years ago.

Though the Australian Open in January will be a better indication of Becker's rehabilitation, his domination over the past month, which has landed titles in Paris and here in Frankfurt, has eclipsed the disappointments and defeats of earlier in the year. Over the past five days, Becker has beaten the world numbers one (Courier), two (Stefan Edberg) and four (Goran Ivanisevic) for the loss of just one set.

"I may be playing better than ever," Becker said after his 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 final victory. "For the moment at least, I feel like I am the No. 1 player in the world."

For Courier, there is the consolation of being the official No. 1, the result of a near invincible first six months, and of beating Pete Sampras, the world No. 3, in the semi-final. But Courier has not won a title since the French Open in May, and his second narrow loss in this event — he was beaten in last year's final by Sampras — has left him so drained that he said that he did not want to play singles in the Davis Cup final early next month.

It said much for the expectations of Germany and Becker's renewed zest that the seventh-ranked Becker was the overwhelming favourite to beat the world No. 1. History was on his side, too. Becker had won all five of their matches, four on indoor carpet, his favourite surface.

The sixth victory in a row was never seriously in doubt once Becker had won the first set on a single break in the

seventh game. Only six points went against service in the opening set.

So impregnable was Becker's service, Courier, one of the best returners in the game, had just four chances to break throughout. He managed to convert only one, early in the third set, which was immediately countered by Becker.

In contrast, Becker broke five times — three times in a row in a purple patch from the middle of the second set — though the American did not serve badly either. "I put more pressure on him than he did on me," Becker said.

Had "Eye of the Tiger" and not "Happy Birthday" been the theme tune, the atmosphere in the Festhalle could not have been more redolent of a world title fight.

Courier, dressed in khaki shorts and baseball top, must have felt more like John Wayne in Apache country than Sly Stallone, but he blazed away merrily for the two hours and 24 minutes and, in defeat, showed the resilience that has characterised his rise to the top, saving five break points in the eighth game of the final set, even if he has yet to master the art of losing gracefully.

Just for a moment, towards the end of the third set, he even threatened a revival as Becker began to show the after-effects of a desperately tight semi-final victory over Ivanisevic. But the "boom boom" has returned to Becker's service this week, and with two big first-service winners he snuffed out the final threat rather more successfully than the candles on the cake which was wheeled on to court a few minutes later. "When he is playing well, he just rips every ball," Courier said. "Usually they go in."

"Becker — a 25-year-old phenomenon" proclaimed a banner, and Courier, for one, would not dispute it.

RESULTS: Rod Laver Group: G Ivanisevic (CRO) vs R Krajcek (CRO), 6-4, 6-3, 6-3; Ken Flach vs B Becker (GER), 6-4, 6-3, 6-3; Courier (USA) vs P Sampras (USA), 7-6, 7-6, 7-6; Becker vs Courier, 6-4, 6-3, 7-5.



Baseline blockade: Seles is at full stretch as she whips back another fierce return in her win over Sabatini

Sabatini's serve lets her down

FROM BARRY WOOD IN NEW YORK

GABRIELA Sabatini showed both the strength of her game and the weakness that may prevent her reaching the No. 1 status she aspires to in the semi-finals of the Virginia Slims championships here yesterday.

She was defeated 7-6, 6-1 by Monica Seles but for the first set showed the greater versatility. While Seles remains content to rally ferociously from the baseline, running her opponents around and simply overpowering them with the pace of her ground strokes, Sabatini has attempted, with some success, to add a net game to her repertoire.

It came into use two years ago and led to her winning the United States Open but has

been in evidence only spasmodically since. However, it was obviously a big part of her strategy both against Seles and against Jennifer Capriati in the quarter-finals.

When she commits herself to attack, few players can match her. Her coverage of the net is remarkable, because of her impressive reach, and her ability to volley angled winners from difficult positions was largely responsible for her victory over Capriati.

Sabatini does, however, have one glaring weakness, and that is her serve. She knows it and is working on it, but this flaw in her armour was entirely responsible for her collapse in the second set against Seles. She double-

faulted on four occasions in the first game and twice more to go down 0-3 down as Seles also stepped up the pace in a successful attempt to force more errors.

Enough progress has been made, though, to leave Sabatini convinced that she is going in the right direction. "I'm very satisfied with the whole week," she said. "I felt good, especially at the net, and I am moving much better. I didn't win a Grand Slam this year, but it's been my best year so far."

Martina Navratilova ended the run of Lori McNeil, winning 7-6, 6-4. It was the quality of McNeil's returns that earned her a break for 3-2 in the first set but Navratilova

raised her game when McNeil served for the set and forced an error which enabled her to level the score at 5-5.

The tie-break went Navratilova's way, after McNeil had served at 5-4, and Navratilova resisted another challenge as McNeil led 2-0 in the second set. But from that stage Navratilova won 14 of the next 15 points.

Even so, McNeil fought on and held a point for 5-5 before Navratilova clinched victory. "She doesn't create much pace of her own, but she's a really good counter-puncher," Navratilova said.

RESULTS: Singles Quarter-finals: G Seles (ARG) vs J Capriati (USA), 6-1, 6-4; L McNeil (USA) vs C Navratilova (CZE), 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; Seles (ARG) vs M Navratilova (CZE), 7-6, 6-4; M Seles (ARG) vs Sabatini, 7-6, 6-1.

RUGBY LEAGUE

St Helens power through mud to get their revenge

Bradford Northern..... 4
St Helens..... 16

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AFTER shipping water, St Helens have a firmer hand at the tiller. A safe passage was negotiated through the mud and mayhem at a sudden Odsal yesterday to ensure revenge for the home defeat by Bradford Northern three weeks ago.

That loss was followed by an ignominious upset at bottom-placed Leigh, which prompted much grinding of teeth at Knowsley Road and a closed-door session for some plain speaking. A clearly revitalised St Helens have buckled down to two wins now, and once more trail Wigan at the top of the St Helens' championship on points difference alone.

Now it is Bradford's turn for that sinking feeling. After two successive defeats, their grip on the title is becoming tenuous as their hold on possession, on the swampy surface yesterday, a missed clearance kick by Powell and a ball that squirted from the finger tips of Simpson presented St Helens with two of their three tries, but the home side's overall handling of the dreadful conditions was not nearly so adept.

Changes of personnel midway through the first half were also crucial. Deryck Fox is Bradford's linchpin and his departure with strained stomach muscles robbed the home side of the necessary stealth going forward. With Kevin

Ward's arrival in the pack for St Helens came the surging power through the middle, ably supported by the highly impressive Joynt and Harrison in the second row.

An unyielding pinch sapped Bradford's strength. On the evidence of their endeavours in the first half, they were unfortunate to be behind 6-4 at the interval, but as Ward wound up his game and gaps began appearing, there seemed little Bradford could do to turn the tide.

Marchant picked up a dropped ball by Griffiths and splashed his way through the puddles for Bradford's only try. Within ten minutes, Powell's blundering boot failed to clear a chip through and successful pursuit by Repasi.

Straightforward goal-kicks by Summers and Hobbs characterised Bradford's missed opportunities in the second half. St Helens were far less profligate, and when Repasi hacked on Ward's pass, Sullivan followed up to score from Simpson's resultant fumble behind his own line.

The only score not arising from an error came when Cooper and Griffiths turned into space to create a try for Connolly, who slid two yards over the Bradford line.

SCORERS: Bradford: Northern: Try: Marchant, St Helens: Try: Repasi, D. Ward, Connolly, Goals: Lynn (2).
BRADFORD NORTHERN: R Simpson, G Coles, S McCreery, N Summers, Marchant, P Wiggins, D Fox, J Anderson, R Powell, J Clark, J Haver, Macey, R D. Ward, K. Roberts, D. Hurn.

ST HELENS: D Lynn, A Marchant, G Connolly, J McCreery, A Sullivan, J Repasi, G Griffiths, J Haver, J Ward, A O'Donnell, G Mann, J Harrison, C Joynt, S Cooper, Referee: J Connolly.

Wigan avert upset

WIGAN staged a dramatic recovery at Salford yesterday to win 26-18 and stay on top of the St Helens' bitter championship.

Salford led 12-0 after ten minutes, with tries from Bleasdale and Bradshaw. Blakeley converted both against his former club.

Wigan trailed 12-8 at half-time after Botica kicked a penalty when Bleasdale was penalised for a high tackle and Bell rounded Gibson to score, with Botica converting.

Tries by Lucas and Pansapa gave Wigan a 20-12 lead, but a Giffallan try, converted by Blakeley, reduced the deficit to two points. Beis sealed the win with a late try, for Botica to land his fifth goal.

A breakaway try by Gibson three minutes from time saved Leeds from an eighth successive away defeat, against Leigh. Gallagher failed to convert and Tanner missed a difficult last-minute penalty chance to leave it at 12-12.

Warrington scored four tries to three at Thrum Hall but Bishop scored four goals and a dropped goal to get Halifax home 21-20. Sheffield Eagles overcame a four-minute spell from Widnes in the first half that produced two tries from Currier. Late tries by Goulding and Spruce, and gave Sheffield a 32-30 home win.

Castleford were made to fight hard by Hull Kingston Rovers before winning 8-2.

GOLF

PGA victory puts Parry in mood to claim Open

Sydney: Craig Parry won the Australian PGA championship by three strokes here yesterday and set his sights on the Australian Open, starting on Thursday.

Parry overcame a bad start to shoot a three-under-par final round of 68 for a 15-under-par total of 269 on his neighbourhood course at Concord. The Queenslander, Peter McWhinney, pushed Parry for the lead for much of the round before finishing second after a 71.

McWhinney was one clear of Mike Harwood, who followed his course record of 61

on Saturday with a 72, and another Australian, Bradley Hughes, who had a final round of 68. Harwood's third-round score broke the course record by three shots.

Parry began the last round sharing the lead with Harwood and McWhinney, but stumbled with two early bogeys before putting together six birdies for the loss of only one further shot at the 11th.

Parry said he had uncovered some course secrets during practice rounds at The Lakes, the venue for the Open, the one big title to elude him in his own country.

YACHTING

Nuclear Electric charges further ahead

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE

JOHN Chittenden and his crew on Nuclear Electric have continued to extend their lead over the British Steel Challenge round-the-world race fleet during the past 48 hours.

Chittenden has pulled a further 80 miles ahead of his closest rivals, Rhone-Poulenc, and is now well south of the River Plate and within a thousand miles of Cape Horn.

The battle for second place is hotly contested, with four yachts chasing Rhone-Poulenc almost line abreast down the South American coast.

They are spread between 180 and 360 miles off Argenti-

na but, in terms of distance to Cape Horn, the difference is a mere 16 miles.

The Nuclear Electric crew has enjoyed more favourable winds for the past six days but, during the weekend, Heath Insured, skippered by Adrian Donovan, moved out to follow their extreme easterly track.

It is now the second most southerly yacht within this ten-strong fleet.

Richard Merriweather and his crew on Commercial Union have made the biggest leap up the leaderboard, climbing from ninth to fourth after making a 332-mile run

during the 48 hours up to 1500 GMT yesterday.

They have closed to within two miles of Coopers & Lybrand, which is skippered by Vivien Cherry.

Hofbrau Lager has dropped from third to fifth position and British Steel II, the first-leg winner, is now languishing in ninth.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 1500 GMT yesterday, with miles to Hobart): 1. Nuclear Electric (UK), 5,644 mi.; 2. Rhone-Poulenc (F), 5,670; 3. Coopers & Lybrand (UK), 5,675; 4. Commercial Union (UK), 5,677; 5. Hofbrau Lager (F), 5,694; 6. Heath Insured (UK), 5,698; 7. Intrepid (UK), 5,699; 8. Pride of Tideside (UK), 5,707; 9. British Steel II (UK), 5,707; 10. Group 4 Securities (UK), 5,805. Results compiled by British Telecom.

Sparking weather blessed the start of the Vendée Globe solo round-the-world race. Fourteen 60ft yachts crossed the line off Les Sables d'Olonne on the west coast of France.

Right up until yesterday morning, there had been hopes that Mike Plant, the American yachtsman aboard Coyote, might appear at Les Sables. There has been weeks of radio silence during his crossing from the United States.

Plant is presumed missing and the search for his boat will continue.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Davis shares second place

Junko Yasui, whose opening 66 gave her a substantial lead, had a final round of 70, two under par, to win the Daiso Seishin women's open golf tournament in Saitacho, Japan, by six strokes.

Yasui finished on 207, six shots clear of Laura Davies, of Great Britain. Tomiko Ikebuchi and Miyuki Shimabukuro, of Japan, who shared second place.

Denmark, represented by Hillerod, had four shots to spare in winning the European Club Cup, at La Quinta, Spain, with Bristol and Clifton taking third place for England and Kilmarnock Barassie finishing fourth for Scotland.

Inaugural tour

Rugby league: A first tour of South Africa by a multi-racial English team is being organised for next summer by Peter Roe, Keighley's coach, who has been approached by the South African Rugby League to assemble a squad for a six-match visit.

Sale agreed

Baseball: Bob Lurie, the owner of San Francisco Giants, and a group of investors, have agreed to sell the team for \$66 million. The deal will keep the team in San Francisco but must be approved by Major League Baseball.

Against the odds

Fencing: Despite providing seven quarter-finalists, Italy were denied the Eden Cup at Crystal Palace when Tobias Damstadt, 19, of Germany, beat Alessandro Cominotti, 6-5, 5-2 to take the title.

Broken duck

Tennis: Chris Wilkinson, of Great Britain, won the first challenger event of his career by beating Roger Smith, of the Bahamas, 6-3, 6-1 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Alfred the great

Yachting: A crew from Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred yacht club won the world youth match-racing regatta in Auckland, beating a British Royal Yachting Association crew 2-1 in the final.

Thompson's miss proves costly

Old Loughtonians..... 1
Hounslow..... 2

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

HOUNSLOW pulled themselves out of a tight corner yesterday to defeat Old Loughtonians and deprive them of their unbeaten record in the Pizza Express National League.

Loughtonians, who played brilliantly in the first half, could still have saved the day if they had converted a late penalty stroke.

The frustrated marksman was Nick Thompson, who deprived himself of his tenth goal this season by putting his shot over the top.

The first thrill was provided by Hounslow in the fourth minute, when a shot by Crutchley from Gordon's centre rebounded back off a post.

A lively pace kept both goalkeepers busy. Barrow rescued Hounslow by saving from Nick Thompson and

Season, at the other end, blocked a shot from Robert Thompson.

Season made another save at close quarters from Gordon before Loughtonians took the lead in the 21st minute, Gladman cutting through from Barker's pass to score from a difficult angle.

Gladman was immediately taken off and replaced by Donnelly, who was equally lively on the left wing. He set up a chance for Kristman, which produced a goal-saving

stop from the ever-alert Barrow.

The second half was dominated by Hounslow, who demonstrated superior communication between attack and defence.

They were quickly into their stride, forcing two quick short corners and converting the second. Hacker scored on the follow-up from Gordon's shot.

Ten minutes later, Hacker set off at great speed to earn Hounslow their fifth short corner, from which Crutch-

ley's shot was deflected into the goal.

Hounslow put the home side under increasing pressure, which was only relieved in the 64th minute when Halls broke free to earn a penalty stroke after he had been brought down by Bolland.

Nick Thompson failed to score but there was still time for another chance for Loughtonians in the final minute.

Kristman released a fierce shot but Barrow was again able to make the save.

Earlier in the day, a plaque was unveiled in the pavilion by Fatima Whitehead, the former world javelin record-holder, to mark the official opening of two floodlit synthetic pitches.

They were built with the aid of grants from the Sports Council and Foundation for Sport and the Arts.

OLD LOUGHTONIANS: A Season, J Halls, J Morrison, S Ashton, D Allen, N Barrow, C Hacker, C Gladman, A Philpott, N Thompson, P Kristman.
HOUNSLOW: J Barrow, S Hodson, P Bolland, M Wilkinson, J Potter, G Symington, D Gordon, D Hacker, R Thompson, J Halls, R Crutchley, A Woolley (Southern Counties) and G Baker (Aurum).

Cullen strikes twice to floor Sutton Coldfield

BY ALEX RAMSAY

IPSWICH maintained their one-point lead in the women's national hockey league with a straightforward 3-1 defeat of Chelmsford, on Saturday, while Slough edged up one place into third by beating Leicester 2-0.

However, with just one game left before the Christmas break, they are still three points behind the leaders with a lot of work to do if they are to claim their fourth championship title.

As for the first division, the usual fall girls, Wimbledon and Clifton are comfortably placed in mid-table and for once have few worries about what the rest of the season will hold.

Only Sutton Coldfield are following their usual pattern. Every year the Midlands team promises so much on paper but invariably loses its way as the season progresses. Saturday proved no different.

Against Hightown, they dominated most of the first half but ended the day 2-0 losers, severely denting their chances of keeping pace with the leaders.

Hightown's goalkeeper, Carolyn Reid, and their sweeper, Jackie Crook, dealt with the early pressure as Sutton pushed forward to win half-a-dozen penalty corners, failing to find the net with any of them.

If Sutton needed advice on goal-scoring, they only had to look to Tina Cullen. She sealed the three points for Hightown with a goal in each half, the second coming from a well-worked free hit. Cullen touched in a Linda Carr drive to leave the Liverpool club just one point behind Ipswich.

The second division is proving a much tighter struggle, with only goal difference separating the top four clubs.

Trojanus dropped two points in a goalless draw with Bracknell.



Gloom and zoom: McRae powers around Weston Park, near Telford, in his Subaru Legacy yesterday as the Lombard RAC Rally got under way in wet conditions



Going places: McRae heads Britain's challenge

Driving force puts McRae out in front of the pack

The ritual of the last-minute signature can prove unsettling. The piece of paper thrust forward moments before departure reads roughly: "I, the undersigned, agree to put my life into the hands of Colin McRae, potential British winner of the Lombard RAC Rally, for the next three minutes and absolve anyone of any responsibility for anything. This is my own stupid fault."

Encased in fireproof overalls and helmet, there is no way out. The undersigned signs, aware that just a few minutes earlier he had been laughing nervously at lurid tales of the road narrated by McRae's regular partner, Derek Ringer.

"I wouldn't say Colin was wild. He drives on the limit all the time and sometimes it is easy to fall over the edge."

On the 1,000-Lakes Rally in Finland this year, the phrase had become a little too literal even for the hardy Ringer's liking. After one spectacular crash, involving a teatop and several triple salchow, Ringer had been reaching for the door handle and safety at exactly the moment McRae hit the starter button. "I didn't think that was a very good idea because I was sure we had no wheels left," Ringer said. But, by the instant which has propelled him into realms of rallying traditionally inhabited only by Finns and Swedes, McRae had just one thought. And it was not self-preservation. The car was the right way up and the clock was still running.

Over the next three days of the RAC Rally, which began yesterday, McRae, from Lanark, in

Scotland, will not be able to afford any such slips if he is to fulfil a quest that has become as obsessive, and proved as fruitless, as Britain's search for a Wimbledon champion.

Not since Roger Clark flung his battered Escort to victory in 1976 has there been a home champion, but the dedicated millions who don hobble hats and go down to the woods every November sense that the 24-year-old Scot might be the answer to their longings. McRae led the rally briefly last year for his Rothmans Subaru team and will be all the wiser for the experience this time. At least, that is theory.

There have been a host of good British rally drivers in recent years, but, either through lack of financial support or lack of real talent, they have not graduated to world class. McRae is different. He has been ever since he was first able to reach the pedals of a motor car at the age of ten. He found the accelerator first, the joke goes, and is still looking for the brake.

But what marks him out from the pack is his speed. Pure, natural, in-bred speed, the raw material from which world champions can be fashioned. "You can have all the other qualities to be a world champion, but it is speed which sorts out the superstar from the good driver," Ari Vatanen, McRae's Subaru team-mate, says. "With due respect even to Roger Clark and Paddy Hopkirk, Colin is on the next level up. He is like some of the great Finnish drivers, head and shoulders above the rest, and the British have not had anyone in that class for a long

Andrew Longmore straps himself in beside the driver putting his foot down in a quest to become Britain's first winner of the Lombard RAC Rally since 1976

time. This guy could break the mould." If he does not break everything else first.

Vatanen, world champion in 1981, has only to cast his mind back to his own reckless, or wreckful, youth to find a comparison. "Yes, he is very much like me when I was that young. I can't help but think it. When you are

young, you don't know what the word 'risk' means. I just hope he learns about it in the gentle way, like losing a rally when he is leading, not in a bad way like I did," Vatanen says.

A bad way. A harmless phrase to describe the two years of physical and mental torture which Vatanen endured after a terrible

accident in Argentina in 1985. Vatanen, now 40 and a farmer in Provence when he is not rallying, is a living reminder of the fine line between risk and danger, sense and stupidity, life and death, which many think McRae has not yet appreciated.

"I know the meaning of risk," McRae, who is unmarried, says.

Sainz soon slips clear of the field

By Stephen Slater

CARLOS Sainz, of Spain, continued his drive for the world rally championship yesterday, defying treacherous conditions as he outpaced his rivals over the nine special stages on the first day of the Lombard RAC Rally.

Sainz, driving a Toyota, needs to finish ahead of the champion, Juha Kankkunen, and his Lancia colleague, Didier Auriol, to reclaim the title, but on the slippery spectatorial stage the Italian team countered Sainz's aggressive style with caution. Kankkunen set one fastest stage time, but he settled for fourth place and Auriol seventh as the British drivers, Colin McRae and Malcolm Wilson, took over pursuit of the Spaniard.

It was McRae who took up the initial chase, setting the second fastest time in the early stages as he hurled his Subaru Legacy along, but eventually the conditions got

the better of even him and he spun off the fourth special stage at Dornington Park. McRae rejoined in seventh position, but another, heavier accident at Clumber Park near Worksop cost him a further 13 minutes.

As McRae fought back to regain third place by the overnight halt, the pursuit of Sainz was taken up by Wilson in his pacy Ford Sierra Cosworth. Wilson set the fastest time on the third stage of the day, at Sutton Park, and moved up to second place, but a late charge moved Sainz, his Italian team colleague, ahead.

Despite the weather, tens of thousands of spectators turned out to watch the action and, unusually, stayed to see the last of the 158 starters. The car is a tiny 600cc Trabanti, driven by Michael Kahlfuss from Magdeburg in what was formerly East Germany.

Despite mastering only a tenth of the horsepower of the leading contenders, Kahlfuss was set to complete the day in 145th place, passing 11 cars and winning many admirers on the way.

LEADING POSITIONS (after ninth stage): 1, C Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 30th); 2, M Wilson and D. Auriol (Ford, 37th); 3, C McRae and D. Ringer (Subaru, 37th); 4, J Kankkunen and J. P. P. (Lancia, 37th); 5, M Wilson and D. Auriol (Ford, 37th); 6, M Wilson and D. Auriol (Ford, 37th); 7, D. Auriol and M Wilson (Ford, 37th); 8, S Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 37th); 9, S Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 37th); 10, A Vatanen and B Berglund (Ford, 37th); 11, S Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 37th); 12, S Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 37th); 13, S Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 37th); 14, S Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 37th); 15, S Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 37th); 16, S Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 37th); 17, S Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 37th); 18, S Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 37th); 19, S Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 37th); 20, S Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 37th); 21, S Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 37th); 22, S Sainz and J. Auriol (Toyota, 37th); 23, S Sainz and J. 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Charlton fail to exploit mistakes

Wolves move into promotion pack as Roberts strikes

Wolverhampton W 2
Charlton Athletic 1

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

WOLVERHAMPTON Wanderers moved to sixth place in the first division at Molineux yesterday, but it is difficult to envisage them as serious promotion candidates. An unrefined approach based on propelling the ball to Steve Bull and his fellow forwards may be the only way to success at this level, but it is hard to imagine leading teams surrendering so easily.

The Wolves rearguard is not up to scratch either, but these Charlton Wanderers are, at least, marginally better than Charlton, who have won only one of their last eight games.

Pre-match entertainment consisted of a Steve Bull look-alike contest. The former England striker was given the task of selecting a close-cropped dingo on the honour for years to come. But Bull has been carrying an Achilles injury this season and has scored only eight goals. Hard as he tried yesterday there was no

disguising the fact that Tipton's favourite son looks a shadow of his former self. He did, however, almost claim a ninth goal within 20 seconds, forcing a fine save from Bolder with a speculative long-range shot. That was the cue for a string of missed chances — Bull missing two of the variety he would once have taken — as two often negligent defences ensured that both goalkeepers were put through their paces.

Wolves took a 28th-minute lead through Mark Burke, who was allowed time to count the crowd before shooting home after Charlton's defence inexcusably failed to cut out Dennis's cross and Bolder remained rooted to his line. Wolves should have extended their lead, but a header from Roberts, a former roller blind salesman and door-fitter who partners Bull up front, was foiled by Bolder's save.

It stung Charlton into action and they equalised after 40 minutes when Minto's centre was superbly headed home by Burnstead. Once again, though, the Wolves defence had been guilty of a lapse of concentration.

Roberts restored their lead in the 47th minute, meeting Birch's cross to score via the far post. Wolves almost put the issue beyond doubt when Burke hit the bar from 35 yards, but even at 2-1 up they still looked wobbly.

With Charlton threatening to score the next goal, Nelson, their most dangerous forward, needlessly got himself sent off in the seventh minute for comments made to a linesman after Mounfield had fouled him.

Despite being a man short, Charlton continued to look like pinching a point as home anxiety grew.

Resembling a giant Meccano set at present, the new Billy Wright stand is rising along one side of Molineux. It is due for completion next season, when Wolves should have a ground as good as most in the top flight. Whether they will have a Premier League team is far less certain.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS: P Jones; M Kelly; P Birch, P Cook, S Bull, D Roberts, R Dennis. CHARLTON ATHLETIC: R Bolder, S Barker, S Minto, A Pardew, S Webster, D Pinner, J Robinson (sub: K Gault), J Burnstead, C Leatham, S Nelson, A Dyer. Referee: R Gifford.

Dicks celebrates his return

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

THE importance of Julian Dicks to West Ham United was highlighted by the 5-3 win against Oxford United at Upton Park on Saturday.

Back from a five-match suspension, which coincided with a dip in West Ham's first division form, Dicks came in for lavish praise from his relieved manager, Billy Bonds. "Julian has a left foot like a hammer. His goals made all the difference," Bonds said. "We should have lost and would have done without Julian."

Brian Horton, the Oxford manager, whose side recently drew 5-5 with Portsmouth, said: "We are the most entertaining side in the division. This is what the supporters want to see."

No prizes for guessing the identity of the division's form team. Grimsby Town made it six wins in their last seven games with a 3-1 victory at

Brentford. Their improved form has coincided with the period Dave Beasant has spent on loan in the Blundell Park goal. Beasant goes back to Chelsea this week and it will be interesting to see how Grimsby do without him.

Newcastle United are 11 points clear at the top courtesy of a 2-0 win against Watford at a snowy St James' Park, where Robert Lee scored his first goal since a £700,000 move from Charlton Athletic, and Gavin Peacock registered his eleventh of the season.

Bristol Rovers stay bottom despite a 1-1 draw at Peterborough United where Rovers looked to be benefiting from the coaching of Malcolm Allison but had to rely on a nineteenth-minute equaliser from Carl Saunders.

Guy Whittingham, the division's leading scorer, claimed his 21st goal of a prolific season as Portsmouth overcame third-placed Tranmere

Rovers by 4-0 at Fratton Park. A 2-2 draw at Bristol City ensured that Swindon Town stayed second but they lost Glenn Hoddle, their player-manager, who limped off with a calf injury that will necessitate a check from a specialist.

Derby County would welcome advice about how to win at home. Sunderland, with a 1-0 win, became the fifth team to win at the Baseball Ground in County's past seven home fixtures. Not the form expected from a £10 million team.

Fighting among supporters before the Italian league match between the city rivals, Torino and Juventus, left at least a dozen people injured, police said yesterday.

Six policemen and at least as many spectators were given first aid. The driver of a police car surrounded by supporters wielding staves was taken to hospital suffering from concussion.



Last-ditch lunge: Howell, of Barnet, tackles Blake, the Cardiff forward, at Underhill yesterday

Payne eases Barnet to victory

Barnet 2
Cardiff City 1

BY KEITH BLACKMORE

A GOAL by Derek Payne four minutes from time gave Barnet victory yesterday and took them to within two points of the leadership of the third division of the Football League.

It was a goal of rare imagination and skill, quite unlike anything that had preceded it, and made memorable a game that otherwise might have been best forgotten.

It was a damp, rainy afternoon and in such conditions at Underhill, football tends to be a slog and the play usually follows the moisture down to the foot of the slope.

Kicking down in the first half, Cardiff City had a theoretical advantage but Barnet are old hands at playing both ends against their visitors.

downhill assault but it also assisted the well-placed kick uphill for position. Showler and Lowe were soon pursuing long balls into the higher ground of the top corners of the pitch.

Any plans Cardiff had to exploit the slope had to be suspended for ten minutes while they played with only ten men. Perry badly gashed his forehead in an early collision and left the pitch. He returned later, conspicuously wounded.

In his absence, Barnet created the best chance of a steady half. Showler's 26th-minute corner from the right was met by the head of Barnet at the far post and Ward reacted instantly to turn it over the bar.

Cardiff absorbed the lesson and began the second half as Barnet had ended the first, pushing up the flanks with menace. Blake headed Miller's corner across goal when he might have scored in the 49th minute.

Kelly was closer with a low

shot following a clearance by Ward but a goal at last arrived in the 62nd minute, thanks to another long ball up the right.

This time it came from James Dale collected it, rounded Phillips and scored with a low shot.

Barnet's response was to send on both substitutes, Stein and Lynch, and they equalised in the seventh minute. Showler's corner dropped into the mud near the penalty spot and Barnet hacked the ball past Ward.

Kelly should have restored Cardiff's advantage, when Richardson put him clear, but he shot wildly over the bar — a miss that would prove costly.

Stein and Lynch both went close for Barnet before Payne produced his match winner. Showler turned too quickly for James on the left and crossed to Bull.

Bull turned the ball gently into the path of Payne, who galloped in to volley it past

Ward from 18 yards. It was a fine goal and sent Barry Fry, the Barnet manager, dancing down the touchline with delight.

Stan Flashman, the Barnet chairman, will be hoping for another victory today when he appears before a Football League enquiry in London to answer charges of alleged irregularities at the club.

York City, the third division leaders, lost for only the second time this season when they went down 4-3 to Northampton Town.

Sloke City are the new pacemakers in the second division, after beating Blackpool, the bottom team, 3-1 while Bradford City, the previous leaders, drew 1-1 against West Bromwich Albion, the third-placed team, at The Hawthorns.

BARNET: G Phillips, R Howell, D Maylor, D Howell, D Barnes, D Houghton, D Payne, M Cooper (sub: B Shaw), G Dale, K Lowe (sub: A Lynch), P Showler, S Stein, S Lynch. CARDIFF CITY: G Ward, R James, D Steele, W Richardson, J Perry, G Bost, P Ramsey, C Galt, sub: R Gifford, N Black, C Dale, P Miller. Referee: G Wilford.

Oldham suffer as United click

BY PETER BALL

THERE is nothing like an unhappy company AGM to concentrate the minds, and Manchester United's players did their bit to shove off the shareholders' revolt in the best way possible with their biggest win of the season against Oldham Athletic on Saturday.

The game was as good as over in the first half hour as McClair, Hughes and McClair again punished Oldham's leaky defence to end United's run of 12 games without a win.

The goals could not have come at a better time as Ferguson's search for a forward, unsuccessful in Sheffield, was rebuffed in Milan as well. Intermediaries insisted that the outstanding Yugoslav international, Dusan Pancev, who came on as a substitute in the Milan derby yesterday, was not for sale.

Surprisingly, United's first league win for two months leaves them only five points behind Arsenal, and one behind Chelsea and their neighbours, Manchester City. City achieved the result of the day, coming back to win at Coventry City after trailing 2-0.

Mickey Quinn found moving up to the Premier League made no difference to his goalkeeping habits, claiming both Coventry's goals on his debut on loan from Newcastle United, but it was his namesake, Niall, who finished the happier, scoring along with Sherron and Curle.

There was an unhappy end to an unhappy week for Vinnie Jones. Defended as "easily led" by Lee Chapman on Radio Five before the match, Vinnie went out as if determined to prove his critics right, a wild lunge earning him a booking as Middlesbrough ended their own barren spell of eight games without a win at Wimbledon's expense.

Representatives of professional footballers throughout Europe are to meet today to draw up tactics to oppose plans that would sweep away restrictions on the number of foreign imports. The Professional Footballers' Association chief executive, Gordon Taylor, and his European counterparts are meeting in Milan to discuss Fifa's intention to modify its rules on the signing and employment of foreign players.

Taylor said: "If the floodgates are opened, the recognised breeding grounds in our game will be seriously affected."

WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

Premier League

COUNTRY	(1)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
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Barclays League

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 BLACKBURN (1) 1
Le Tissier 23 Moran 38
16.626

FA VASE: Second round: Tunbridge Wells 3, Tonbridge 1, Milton Keynes Borough 0, Tring 1; Burnham Ramblers

Second division

Blackburn 1; Bolton 2; Burnley 1; Bury 1; Darwen 1; Bolton 2; Thatcham 1; Cranleigh 3; North Leigh 0; Hartley Wintney 3; Bournemouth 1; Oxford City 1; Evesham 2; Forest Green 2; Leatherhead 1; First Tower 3; Havant 2 (aet); Yate 1; Paulton 2; Clevedon 5; Barnstaple 4; Wimborne 1; Almondsbury Picksons 4; Newquay 1; AFC Weymouth 0; Totton 5; Cinderford 1; Wokingham

Third division

Diamonds 2, Gresley Hovers 2 (aet);
Oldbury 1, Stratford 2; Spalding 2,
Bourne 2 (aet); Stapenhill 2, Bridgnorth
Town 2 (aet); Kings Lynn 2, Sandwell
Borough 1; Harwich and Parkeston 2.
Erith and Belvedere 1; Peacehaven and
Telscombe 2, Northwood 1. Croy
Wanderers 1, Mersham 0. Metropolitan

GM Vauxhall Conference

Edgware 1, Epsom 4, Halesham 4, Clapton 3, Walthamstow Pennant 1, Tiptree 0 (ast), Saffron Walden 3, Rustlip Manor 1, Dunstable 1, Buckingham 1 (ast), Stungbourne 4, Cherisey 2; Sudbury Wanderers 2, Camsey Island 3; Great Harwood 2, Bamber Bridge 3 (ast), Pickering 2, Billingham Town 2

Oldham suffer as United click

Bomb scare proves forerunner to a bad day for Premier League's title pretenders

Arsenal's run upstaged by Leeds revival

Leeds United.....3
Arsenal.....0

By Peter Ball

SO ARSENAL are not invincible after all. Take a bomb scare in the middle of the night, a hobbling goalkeeper and an absent centre forward, and the championship favourites are just as vulnerable as anybody else.

"I didn't think it was going to be our day when we were standing out in the streets for half an hour at four o'clock this morning because of a bomb threat," George Graham said on Saturday after Leeds had ended Arsenal's run of six consecutive wins. His convictions were accurate, the champions winning the key Premier League match with verve and conviction.

It was an important win for the Premier League, ending, at least temporarily, fears that Arsenal might turn the championship race into a procession. It may prove an even more important victory for Leeds, after their dismal run, since the European Cup defeat by Rangers, of seven matches without a win.

Tellingly, it came at the end of an international week, the break giving players a chance to breathe different air and stop feeling sorry for themselves. While they were away, the Leeds manager was left to work with his unrequited defenders, who have carried the brunt of the blame for the recent failures.

"I just worked with the back four all week," Wilkinson said. "We tried to get two or three things clear in our minds, establish a positive attitude."

"We'll tell in the next month whether it's all been worth-while, or whether today was just one of those days. It was very, very important to get a win, but probably just as important for us was the performance."

The much-maligned defenders clearly benefited from their week's tutorial, but it was not only the defenders who shone, as Leeds won every bank. And thrillingly, after the unthinking search for Chapman via the aerial route in the last two months, they did it with some spendid football.

With Wallace vibrant on his return, in place of the injured Cantona, to give them the



Brought down to earth: Dixon, right, collapses under the challenge of Dorrigo, of Leeds, during the champions' 3-0 victory at Elland Road on Saturday

rapier as well as the broadsword, McAllister looking brighter than for weeks, and Rostie and Strachan bubbling, Leeds recalled the palmy days of the surge to the championship when they attacked with a broad sweep.

It was too much for Arsenal. Smith, who has a stress fracture, revealed his importance in his absence, but Graham refused to blame the bomb scare, or the hip injury which restricted Seaman's movement after 25 minutes and led to his departure immediately after the first goal, preferring to direct his complaints at his own players. "We were very, very poor today after a great run," he said.

With Wallace missing his first of two outstanding chances, Speed another and McAllister seeing two delightful pieces of improvisation just fall, it took 51 minutes for the pressure to tell. Adams had just signalled that Seaman needed replacing as Whyte flicked on Strachan's corner

and Fairclough rose above Adams to head home.

Arsenal's best chance came almost immediately, Rostie underhitting his back-pass on the sodden surface, but Lukic saved at Wright's feet. Two minutes later, Leeds made the game safe, Rostie making amends with a fine run to release Wallace for a centre, headed home irresistibly by Chapman.

The third goal was an even better revelation of Leeds's strengths. Strachan first robbing Jensen, then turning him and clipping a perfect pass between two defenders for McAllister to leave Miller helpless on his debut. Arsenal's only resistance came in a piece of petulance by Merson, who received a yellow card to take Arsenal's bookings total to 29.

LEADS UNITED: J. Lister, J. Newson, A. Dorrigo, D. Rostie, C. Fairclough, C. Whyte, G. Strachan, R. Wallace (sub: C. Smith), L. Chapman, G. McAllister, G. Speed. ARSENAL: D. Seaman (sub: A. Miller), L. Dixon, S. Morrow, D. Hillier (sub: R. Parfitt), S. Bolt, A. Adams, J. Jensen, I. Wright, K. Campbell, P. Merson, A. Limper. Referee: R. Hart.

Forest gain some self-belief

Crystal Palace.....1
Nottingham Forest.....1

By Peter Robinson

IF NOTTINGHAM Forest are to pull away from the mire at the bottom of the Premier League, they may look back at 4.37pm on Saturday as the time the recovery began. After weeks of frustration and failure, a little luck fell their way and Forest, for whom scoring goals had become a fading memory, were able to capitalise, equalise and collect a precious point. It has not improved their lot much at the foot of the table, but the psychological lift could be enormous.

For an hour after Armstrong had accepted an invitation to give Crystal Palace a 22nd-minute lead, Forest had suffered a strong case of *déjà*

vu. Three times in their last five League matches, they have conceded a silly goal and toiled in vain for a reply. It was the familiar story of possession, precision and pathetic finishing.

Then, to widespread surprise, Forest scored. Woan shot, Martyn saved, the ball rebounded awkwardly back to the Forest player, who looped a header over the goalkeeper and Bannister, chasing the ball over the line, claimed the goal.

It was, in truth, a decent finish to a dull game, but Forest will not complain about that. They had been searching for confidence for weeks and, at last, they may have discovered some. There was little sign of that, however, in the first half. With Keane planted on the right wing, despite excelling in midfield for the Republic of Ireland in mid-

week, Forest were unable to impose themselves. Palace, less inventive, were rarely troubled and it was no surprise when Armstrong, presented with the ball 20 yards from goal, slotted home.

When the teams re-emerged at half-time, Keane was restored to midfield and slowly Forest took a grip. Woan offered their biggest threat on 72 minutes, forcing Martyn into a fine save with a 25-yard shot; on 80 minutes, a flying header was pushed on to the crossbar by an increasingly flustered goalkeeper; and, two minutes later, he finally found a way past Martyn for Bannister to restore parity.

CRYSTAL PALACE: N. Martyn, J. Hunt, S. Gray, R. Shaw, G. Southgate, E. Young, T. Smith, S. O'Brien, P. Williams, C. Armstrong, P. McIntyre (sub: C. Coleman), E. McCosker. NOTTINGHAM FOREST: M. Crossley, B. Lewis, S. Pearce, S. Chabot, C. Thor, R. Keane, G. Bannister, S. Gerrard, N. Clough, L. Glover, I. Woan. Referee: K. Hackett.

Liverpool welcome Barnes's return

JOHN Barnes is poised to return to senior football this evening, almost six months after sustaining an injury which threatened to end his career (Ian Ross writes). The England forward is likely to be named as one of Liverpool's substitutes for the game against Queens Park Rangers at Loftus Road after proving his fitness in a series of minor fixtures over the past fortnight. Barnes, 29, had not played in a senior match since he ruptured an Achilles tendon last June playing for England in Finland, and has started only 17 of his club's 88 competitive senior fixtures since the start of last season.

"John is improving steadily and he's gaining more confidence with every passing day,"

Ronnie Moran, the Liverpool senior coach, said.

If Barnes does make his first Premier League appearance tonight, Liverpool will immediately lodge a compensation claim with the Football Association. Under the terms of its insurance policies, the FA guarantees to pay the wages of any player who is unavailable for selection at club level because of an injury sustained while on international duty.

With Barnes earning an estimated £8,000 a week, the claim is likely to exceed £200,000.

Liverpool will definitely be without Thomas, Walters, Stewart, Molby and Whelan tonight, although Rosenthal, their Israeli forward, is now available again.

Norwich showing that figures can lie

Norwich City.....2
Sheffield United.....1

By Russell Kempson

NORWICH City defy statistical logic. They have conceded 28 goals in 16 Premier League matches — only Oldham Athletic have a worse defensive record — and have a meagre goal difference of plus one. No amount of creative accounting can translate that into championship potential.

Yet Norwich, who stretched their lead at the top to four points on Saturday, have won more matches and scored more goals than anyone else and have the best defensive slate at home.

Scratch the head, reach for the aspirin and try to unscramble that conundrum; it could take months, maybe

until May. Mike Walker, the Norwich manager, offers no simple solution but is refreshingly honest in his final analysis. "I'd rather win 5-4 every week and get three points than draw 0-0, take a point and say we've done well defensively," he said. "I suppose the problem comes when we lose 4-3."

Norwich hold their lofty position despite a 7-1 beating by Blackburn Rovers and a 4-1 reverse at Anfield. With each victory, with each flowing display, Walker takes increasing delight in cocking a snook at his club's critics. Any signs of weakness — and there were several against Sheffield United — are swiftly papered over and defeats dismissed as mere hiccups.

Dave Bassett, the Sheffield United manager, was impressed. "It's OK saying Norwich might crack," he said.

"But perhaps the others might crack trying to catch them."

All the Norwich players want the ball and look comfortable with it; they know what to do with it, when to do it and how to do it. They are able to adjust and improvise to suit the circumstances and conditions — driving rain and a greasy pitch on Saturday.

Sheffield United relied a lot less on the big boot than might have been expected. Gannon and Ward scurried industriously, Deane and Littlejohn were alert and willing up front. Had Beesley's early header gone in instead of clipping the crossbar, had Gunn not saved smartly from Deane and Ward in a frantic first half of 15 corners, United could have sprung a surprise.

But Norwich boss' resilience among their many qualities and, after Cork's tap-in

equaliser for Sheffield United in the 73rd minute, they bounced back with the sweetest of winners. Phillips swept the ball wide for Fox, whose first-time cross was met with an equally precise first-time finish from Robins for his eleventh goal of the season.

Norwich's opener had been fashioned by Culverhouse, Fox and Robins. Beckford driving in a shot from the byline that Pemberton turned into his own net. Beckford, understandingly eager since recovering from hernia, shoulder, thigh, ankle and Achilles tendon injuries, claimed the goal. That, too, defied logic.

NORWICH CITY: S. Gannon, M. Ward, B. Gannon, J. Pemberton, J. Phillips, D. Beckford, M. Robins, R. Fox, D. Phillips. SHEFFIELD UNITED: A. Kelly, K. Gage, T. Cocker, J. Gannon, J. Pemberton, P. Beesley, M. Ward, B. Gannon, P. Robins, L. Littlejohn (sub: A. Cork), B. Deane, G. Hodge. Referee: M. Peck.

Corners can solve the pain of the penalty shoot-out

DAVID MILLER

Tottenham Hotspur and Aston Villa provided an entertaining, endlessly fluctuating goal-less draw in the Premier League on Saturday with a profusion of evidence for the argument that a tally of corners — rather than an irrelevant, though dramatic, lottery of a penalty shoot-out — should be used to determine unresolved cup-ties.

Either side could have won by two or three goals at White Hart Lane but Tottenham won the corner count 13-10.

By neglecting the opportunity to utilise such an option, which has the advantage of being a part of conventional play, Fifa also wastes the possibility to add legitimate drama to the regular course of a cup-tie by converting a corner casually conceded for safety first into a potential match-decider, and, therefore, something to be avoided.

Corners are a genuine reflection of initiative and there was plenty of that in either direction, even if the inconclusive finishing at both ends was also a reflection of a general decline in individual technique.

While Dalian Atkinson had two flowing runs in the first half ending with shots that forced fine saves from Thorstvedt — the first producing a corner — and McGrath had two headers within a minute cleared off the line early in the second half by Ruddock and then Howells, it was Tottenham who squandered the more glaring openings.

Sheringham's departure from Nottingham Forest seems likely to help push them towards the first division yet his addition to Tottenham's attack has so far shown no great potential for bringing them their first league title for 30 years.

Running through a flat defence on to a long clearance from Thorstvedt early in the first half, he was dangerously positioned at reasonable range and not too wide on the right yet failed even to oblige Spink to make a save.

Beating a two men three minutes into the second half, Sheringham drove hard at Spink when the situation demanded that he

place his shot. Nayim had struck a similarly guileless shot midway through the first half.

If Nayim could offer the excuse of haste under pressure, no such cop-out was available to Austin, the Tottenham right back, a few moments later. Taking a free kick 35 yards out, he hammered the ball 15 yards wide of the goal and high into the crowd. Such is, occasionally, the technique in today's premier division, never mind the third.

The worst miss, however, was that by Barnby a few minutes from time, when he had Spink at his mercy close in but screwed the ball wide of the right post.

Villa had not lost in 12 matches nor Tottenham in six and the conclusion from this match must be that Tottenham should achieve a comfortable place somewhere in mid-table but that Villa may not be such a short odds calculation for the title as the bookmakers have recently made them.

It was the perfect pitch for a side that fancies itself as a fast, attacking unit. A wet top on a firm, true surface was the attackers' delight but we saw little danger from Saunders, who was well marshalled by Ruddock and Mabbutt.

Although the Villa section howled abuse when Ruddock was booked for bringing down Atkinson early on, I thought it was one of those occasions, rare enough, when Ruddock was unfairly penalised, Atkinson bouncing off him as he tried to accelerate past.

Villa had the better of much of the second half and, near the end, Parker cut through twice, first heading wide when unopposed then forcing Thorstvedt to tip over the bar. It was one of those afternoons, less frequent nowadays, when a season ticket seemed a good investment.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: E. Thorstvedt, D. Austin, J. Evershed, V. Sharmayev, G. Maybank, N. Ruddock, D. Howells, G. Duncanson, N. Barnby, Nayim, E. Sheringham, P. Allen (sub: J. Curry). ASTON VILLA: N. Spink, E. Baines, S. Saunders, P. McGrath, S. Teale (sub: U. Shogual, A. Richardson, P. Houghton, G. Parker (sub: C. Rogers), D. Saunders, D. Atkinson, B. Small. Referee: I. Burrell.

ROWING

Pooley dominates in singles and doubles

More than 500 boats were involved in the Tiffin Head on Saturday when Guy Pooley underlined his supremacy by beating the Olympic sculler, Wade Hall-Craggs, by a half-minute in the singles (Mike Rosewell writes).

Pooley started directly behind the national champion, Cal Macdonald, his Leander doubles partner, and overtook him just after halfway. This duo went on to win the doubles two hours later, beating Hall-Craggs and Gareth Walters, by 15 seconds.

Tim Foster, stroke of the Olympic eight, sculled twice and won the Senior I and Senior II events in fast times

while the Great Britain lightweight, Sue Appelboom, was again well ahead of her heavier women rivals.

It is still not clear who will be coaching some of these world-class performers in 1993. Bob Michaels, the British women's coach, and Alan Whirwell, the men's lightweight coach, have taken up appointments in Greece and Norway and interviews are being held for possible replacements.

Jürgen Grobler, Leander's German coach who was offered the top British coaching post over a month ago, has been settling contractual details and an announcement is expected this week.

ICE HOCKEY

McEwen shows way

Cardiff Devils.....6
Nottingham Panthers.....3

By Norman De Mesquita

CARDIFF Devils are through to the Benson and Hedges Cup final in Sheffield next month, after beating Nottingham Panthers on Saturday, 15-7 on aggregate.

Doug McEwen increased their 9-4 first-leg margin after only two minutes with the first of two successful long shots in the first period. Between those two goals, Ashley Tait and Randall Weber scored for Nottingham but for the remainder of the game Cardiff were in command.

Play took place at the Nottingham end of the ice for most of the final period and only an outstanding performance by Danny Thompson in the Nottingham goal kept the score within bounds.

Whitley Warriors led Durham Wasps 13-5 after the first leg of their cup match last weekend. Whoever qualifies from that semi-final will be aware that Cardiff have run into excellent form after a halting start to their season.

Nottingham, meanwhile, will need to look to their defence and their commitment if they are to pull their season round. SCORERS: Cardiff: D. McEwen (3), S. Cadden, I. Cooper, S. Cooper. Nottingham: A. Tait, R. Weber, D. Dixon.

THE TIMES TABLE OF THE FA PREMIER LEAGUE																
Chngs Nov 7	P	Pts	Goal diff	W (H-A)	D (H-A)	L (H-A)	For (H-A)	Agst (H-A)	Leading scorers	Offences S-O	Home Avg 92-3	% chg 91-2	Recent form	Next match		
1 (+3) Norwich	16	33	+1	10 (5-4)	3 (2-1)	3 (0-3)	29 (13-16)	28 (8-22)	Robins 10, Phillips 5	- 10	14,327	+3.4	lwdwsw	A Villa (a Sat)		
2 (-1) Arsenal	16	29	+6	9 (5-3)	2 (0-2)	5 (2-3)	22 (14-8)	16 (7-9)	Wright 10	- 21	25,236	-20.9	wwwlww	Man Utd (h Sat)		
3 (-1) Blackburn	16	28	+13	7 (5-2)	7 (1-6)	2 (2-0)	25 (17-8)	12 (7-5)	Shearer 12, Ripley 3	2 17	17,993	+35.8	wwdldl	QPR (h Sat)		
4 (-1) A Villa	16	28	+9	7 (4-3)	7 (3-4)	2 (1-1)	24 (13-11)	15 (7-8)	Atkinson 9, Saunders 7	- 9	26,344	+6.1	lwdwswd	Norwich (h Sat)		
5 (0) QPR	16	26	+7	7 (4-3)	5 (3-2)	3 (0-3)	22 (15-7)	15 (9-7)	Ferdinand 5	- 17	15,241	+12.3	dwlww	Liverpool (h today)		
6 (+1) Man City	16	25	+8	7 (3-4)	4 (3-1)	5 (2-3)	24 (14-10)	16 (9-7)	White 9, Shearer 5	1 12	24,565	-11.3	ldwllww	Tottenham (h Sat)		
7 (+1) Chelsea	16	25	+4	7 (3-4)	4 (3-1)	5 (2-3)	23 (10-13)	19 (8-11)	Harford 8, Stuart 4	- 22	19,051	+2.0	lwwlww	Leeds (a Sat)		
8 (+2) Man Utd	16	24	+5	6 (3-3)	6 (3-3)	4 (2-2)	17 (9-8)	12 (7-5)	Hughes 6	- 14	32,258	-28.3	ddldlw	Arsenal (a Sat)		
9 (-3) Coventry	16	23	-1	6 (2-4)	5 (2-3)	5 (4-1)	20 (9-11)	21 (12-9)	Williams/McIlroy 4	- 7	14,324	+3.2	ddldll	Sheff Utd (a Sat)		
10 (-1) Ipswich	16	22	+2	4 (2-2)	10 (6-4)	2 (0-2)	21 (12-9)	19 (9-10)	Dozzell/Wark 5	1 14	17,628	+23.5	lwdwld	Everton (h Sat)		
11 (+1) Middlesbrough	16	21	+3	5 (4-1)	6 (3-3)	5 (1-4)	26 (16-10)	23 (8-15)	Wilkinson 8, Slaven 4	- 11	17,683	+20.3	ddldld	Oldham (a Sat)		
12 (+1) Leeds	16	21	+1	5 (5-0)	6 (3-3)	5 (0-5)	28 (20-8)	27 (7-20)	Chapman 8, Cantona 6	- 15	26,409	-3.6	ldldlw	Chelsea (a Sat)		
13 (-2) Liverpool	15	19	0	5 (5-0)	4 (1-3)	6 (2-4)	24 (16-8)	24 (10-14)	Walters 4	- 15	33,618	-3.4	lwdwsw	QPR (a today)		
14 (+1) Sheff Wed	16	19	-1	4 (3-1)	7 (3-4)	5 (2-3)	18 (11-7)	19 (10-9)	Hirst 6, Bright 4	- 16	26,337	-10.9	lwdldd	Wimbledon (a Sat)		
15 (-1) Tottenham	16	19	-6	4 (3-1)	7 (4-3)	5 (1-4)	16 (11-5)	22 (8-14)	Sheringham 5, Durie 3	1 15	27,782	+0.1	ldldwd	Man City (a Sat)		
16 (0) Sheff Utd	16	17	-6	4 (3-1)	5 (4-1)	7 (1-6)	16 (8-7)	22 (7-15)	Deane 5, Littlejohn 4	1 23	21,371	-3.3	lwdlwl	Coventry (h Sat)		
17 (+2) Southampton	16	16	-5	3 (2-1)	7 (4-3)	6 (2-4)	13 (8-5)	18 (8-10)	Le Tissier 4, Dowle 3	1 20	14,663	+4.2	lwdlwd	Nottn For (a Sat)		
18 (-1) Everton	16	16	-7	4 (1-3)	4 (3-1)	8 (4-4)	13 (4-9)	20 (10-10)	Beardsley 3	- 7	21,436	-7.4	ldldwl	Ipswich (a Sat)		
19 (-1) Oldham	16	15	-6	3 (3-0)	6 (3-3)	7 (2-5)	23 (16-7)	29 (13-16)	Sharp 5, Olney 4	- 14	12,054	-20.1	lwdll	Middlesbrough (h Sat)		
20 (0) Wimbledon	16	14	-7	3 (1-2)	5 (2-3)	8 (5-3)	18 (8-10)	25 (13-12)	Holdsworth/Easte 3	1 19	8,847	-1.0	ldldwl	Sheff Wed (h Sat)		
21 (0) C Palace	16	12	-7	1 (0-1)	9 (5-4)	6 (3-3)	20 (10-10)	27 (13-14)	Armstrong 6	2 14	14,725	-16.4	ddldld	Liverpool (a Sat)		
22 (0) Nottn For	16	11	-13	2 (2-0)	5 (1-4)	9 (5-4)	12 (4-8)	25 (8-17)	Bannister 5	- 8	20,221	-14.8	lwdld	Soton (h Sat)		

TRANSFERS: Neil Webb (Nottn Forest) from Man Utd, £200,000; Mark Brennan (Oldham) from Man City, £200,000; Jo Allen (Brentford) from Chelsea, £275,000; Stan Collymore (Southend) from Crystal Palace, £150,000; Nicky Rold (Wolves) from Blackburn, free. LOANS: Mick Quinn (Newcastle) to Coventry; Vujadin Stanokovic (Partizan Belgrade) to Crystal Palace; Chris Kamara (Luton) to Sheffield Utd; John Kasey (Oldham) to Chester; Steve Agnew (Blackburn) to Portsmouth; David Johnson (Sheffield Wed) to Hartlepool; Glen Livingstone (Aston Villa) to York.

All statistics relate to the Premier League only.

مكتبة الأمل

Balding and Hawke take the knocks in their stride

Alan Lee discovers that Aintree's first November meeting for 20 years retains its mystique, even in sodden conditions



Rising to the challenge: Kildimo leaping clear of The Antartex on his way to victory at Aintree on Saturday

The Aintree bug, they say, is for ever. Taste success on this maddest and most marvellous of all racecourses and you are a slave to the place for life. The theory was given a stern test on Saturday.

Toby Balding and Nigel Hawke both know what it is to win the Grand National. Their lives were changed, if only temporarily, by the most uplifting experience known to racing, and the bug insists they go back for more. But as they left the swamp which was Aintree on an appalling November evening, they wore the bewildered air of men jilted in love.

Hawke was the face of the 1991 National, the country boy with choirboy looks and voice, suddenly a celebrity through a horse called Seagram.

He was to ride him again in Saturday's Becher Chase, the National trial on this restored November card, but he might have guessed it would not be his day after the opening novices' hurdle.

Royal Piper, Hawke's ride for his trainer David Barons, hung obstinately right all the way up the straight before electing to cart his rider into the stables rather than begin another circuit.

Horse and jockey crashed through a set of plastic rails and came to a juddering halt on the puddled tarmac. Nasty moment, but there was worse to follow.

The big race proved that Aintree's equine heroes fall out of love with the place more readily than the humans. Seagram hated every stride, resented every fence. He might have come down at any of the first six. The seventh was the Chair, and that was emphatically the end of the race.

Hawke, unscathed, left the course quickly, shaking his head at the fickleness of it all. Given the chance, of course, he will be back in April. So too will Balding, though with eloquent expression and solemn understatement, he summed up his day thus: "It would be a great help to forget it all."

Dressed in a vast wax coat against the incessant rain, Balding had broken off from saddling Cool Ground for the Becher to catch a sight of his stable fancy, Beech Road, in the feature race at Ascot. He was too late. Peering at the television screen, Balding saw only a loose horse, jockey Richard Guest already unseated. He hurried off with a muttered curse.

Cool Ground deflated him further. Cruising under Adrián Maguire, who said the horse was giving him the same feel he had when winning last season's Gold Cup, he capsize at the thirteenth

Cup, which also caused him to miss the Grand National. Harvey Smith may be used to sport's lofty platforms but, even for him, Aintree is special. His craggy face bearing a huge grin, he told how, as a boy, he had broken his arm. "I woke up from the anaesthetic in hospital with the sick bowl on my head like a jockey cap. I'd been dreaming I had won the National. I still dream of it now."

Aintree's first November meeting for 20 years may not have proved much, despite the course's determination to repeat and expand it. What it did prove, unarguably, is that the place can still weave its spell, whatever the month.

Considering the weather, 12,000 was a remarkably good crowd, and if they went away sodden they had at least received value for money.

The dramas of the main feature apart, they saw a David Nicholson treble, the two ridden by Richard Dunwoody taking him to 50 winners for the season, his quickest half-century.

Dunwoody chose wrongly in the last race, riding Nick Henderson's Thumbs Up in preference to the Nicholson-trained winner, Dreamers Delight, but he enjoyed little more than steering jobs on Now Your Talkin and Baydon Star.

He is six winners clear of Peter Scudamore now, but says he won't start thinking of the jockeys' title until his next visit to Aintree, in April.

CYCLING

Douce shakes off Clarke challenge

BY PETER BRYAN

THREE days of heavy rain made yesterday's second round of the National Trophy cyclo-cross series at Wolverhampton a stop-and-start affair as most riders changed their mud-clogged bikes every lap on the Aldersley stadium circuit.

Steve Douce, the defending champion, who had triumphed in last month's opening event at Dudley, again had the strength to shake off the opposition, although his decisive move did not come until a few seconds before the bell for the final lap.

Until then he had had a shoulder-to-shoulder struggle with Barrie Clarke. Clarke's challenge with two laps to go fizzled out and Douce finished eight seconds clear. Clarke said that he needed a few more weeks to recover fully from a broken leg.

Douce has taken maximum points from the two races in the series. The final round is at

Todmorden in January. Roger Hammond, Britain's junior world champion, gamely elected to compete in the senior event despite being handicapped by shingles for the past three weeks. He finished fourth, almost three minutes down, but still runner-up overall.

NATIONAL TROPHY: Round 2, Wolverhampton, 15 miles; 1. S Douce (Barons), 2. R Hammond (JC Barons), 3. B Clarke (Barons), 4. R Hammond (JC Barons), 5. C Young (Team Orange), 6. S Douce (Barons), 7. R Hammond (JC Barons), 8. C Young (Team Orange), 9. S Douce (Barons), 10. R Hammond (JC Barons), 11. C Young (Team Orange), 12. S Douce (Barons), 13. R Hammond (JC Barons), 14. C Young (Team Orange), 15. S Douce (Barons), 16. R Hammond (JC Barons), 17. C Young (Team Orange), 18. S Douce (Barons), 19. R Hammond (JC Barons), 20. C Young (Team Orange), 21. S Douce (Barons), 22. R Hammond (JC Barons), 23. C Young (Team Orange), 24. S Douce (Barons), 25. R Hammond (JC Barons), 26. C Young (Team Orange), 27. S Douce (Barons), 28. R Hammond (JC Barons), 29. C Young (Team Orange), 30. S Douce (Barons), 31. R Hammond (JC Barons), 32. C Young (Team Orange), 33. S Douce (Barons), 34. R Hammond (JC Barons), 35. C Young (Team Orange), 36. S Douce (Barons), 37. R Hammond (JC Barons), 38. 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THEATRE page 30

Battle of the sexes,
Victorian style: George
Gissing brought to the
stage in Manchester

ARTS

DANCE page 31

How much will posterity
value MacMillan's
Mayerling, now revived
at Covent Garden?



Light shines forth in the churches of tomorrow

ARCHITECTURE:
New sacred buildings
will be celebrated in a
Venice Biennale show
next month, reports
Marcus Binney

After decades of modest achievement or plain brutalist failure, sacred architecture is reviving. New churches of extraordinary beauty and originality are rising on both sides of the Atlantic, and as far away as Japan. Many share key characteristics: a brilliant handling of natural light (with all the religious symbolism that this implies), and an emphasis on natural materials and on achieving harmony with nature. With this goes a search into the past, both in buildings and scripture, not so much for stylistic cues as for elemental forms which have inspired worshippers through the ages.

New designs for sacred buildings — Christian, Jewish and Muslim — will be the theme of a major exhibition at the Venice Biennale, opening on December 4. It promises to be the most stimulating coverage of the subject for many years, and it is a subject that demands serious attention.

In Arkansas, for instance, the little chapel at Thornecrown, one of the touchstones of the movement, now attracts 300,000 people a year, though built for a congregation of 120. This is an architecture of pure simplicity, no more than a row of interlocking timber trusses enclosed by transparent glass walls. Maurice Jennings of the architects Fay Jones explains: "Our client was a retired schoolteacher who had made money from property and wanted to give something back to the community. All the building elements had to be light enough for two men to carry them through the woods."

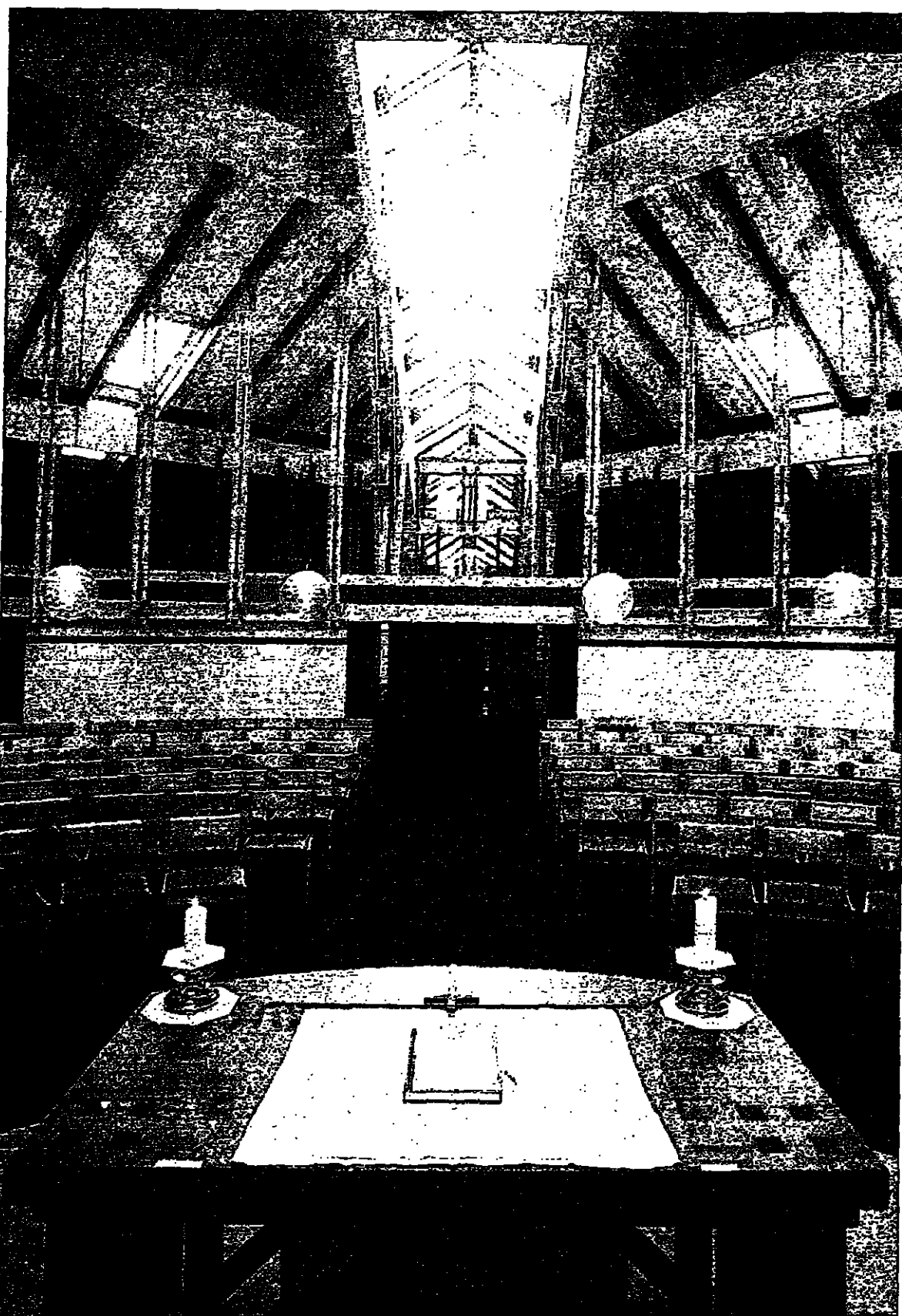
In upstate New York, the architect Norman Jaffe has built an inspiring new synagogue using only two materials: dolomite stone and Alaska yellow cedar. "I'd admired the Shinto shrines in Japan and discovered that the wood they use to rebuild them comes from northern Canada. It's almost white, with no grain but an intense scent. Our carpenters were high on sawdust."

Jaffe was also influenced by photographs of a remarkable series of wooden synagogues in Poland, built in the years before and after 1900 and entirely destroyed by the Nazis. "Though a peasant architecture, it was amazingly sophisticated, mystical and transcendental. Light was used to create a feeling of heads lifting to the sky. We too wanted the simplicity and luminosity of a tent. Abraham was told by God to worship in a simple tent."

A numinous pilgrimage chapel has recently been completed at Knock in County Mayo. Following an apparition in 1879, the number of pilgrims has now risen to 1.25 million every year. John Meagher and his partner won the competition to design the chapel. "Our idea was not to create another church, but to build into the hill, partially covering the chapel with a grass roof. The only thing that matters in architecture is daylight and how you handle it."

The interior, on a simple square-in-square plan, is a progression from darkness to light. Up to 3,000 penitents pass through 60 confessionals in a service and, Meagher says, "go out cleansed into daylight which floods through the large clear glass lantern above the sanctuary."

Luminosity is the hallmark of the much acclaimed oratory at Grange-over-Sands in Cumbria by the archi-



James Stephen's "dockyard" church in Rosyth: daylight features prominently in new religious architecture

tecs Benson and Forsyth. The Augustinian sisters who run a nursing home here wanted a centrally placed chapel that would nonetheless have the feeling of a place apart. The oratory is a cylinder of the same internal dimensions as Bramante's Tempietto in Rome, erected to commemorate the crucifixion of St Peter. Gordon Benson also mentions a much earlier precedent, now in the British Museum: a fifth-century ivory panel of the resurrection. "This shows the Holy Sepulchre as a two-storey cylinder," he says. The walls are completely luminous by day and night, enclosed with acid-etched white glass.

A search for forms that have archetypal power is a hallmark of Jusus Dahinden, who many regard as the finest ecclesiastical architect at work today. His Maria Kronungskirche, near Zürich, has a roof suggestive of a vast cave lit by a single unexpected shaft of light from above. And in

**'We wanted both
simplicity and
luminosity. God
told Abraham to
worship in a tent'**

Scotland the architect James Stephen is rapidly making a name as a designer of boldly contemporary churches built of materials that are in sympathy with their surroundings. His new Catholic church in the dockyard at Rosyth makes extensive use inside of natural wood, and adopts a fan-shaped plan with seats in concentric rings. Outside the landscaping completes the circle. Intriguingly Quinlan Terry, architect of England's newest cathedral, the

Roman Catholic one at Brentwood, Essex, is one of those who may stay away from the Venice Biennale, with its multi-faith emphasis. As a committed Christian he finds it difficult to accept Christianity being presented as one of several religions. "The many-ways-to-God philosophy is not for me," he says.

He denies the very existence of sacred space. "The idea of the Holy of Holies, a place on earth where the individual can be with God, is an Old Testament one. People still do not understand the freedom Christ gave us," Terry says he only accepted the Brentwood commission because the bishop pressed him.

"To me there is nothing special about a building with a cross on top. It's no different from a library or a town hall. It's just a building contract. We get sued if it's not done properly." But he adds: "Nothing gives me more pleasure than designing a pulpit. There's hope in what is preached."

Mary's brain-child

WATCH out, Cliff Richard. The battle for Christmas record sales has been joined this year by Dr Mary Archer, the fragrant Renaissance woman of Grantchester. She has recorded 18 Christmas carols with the Salisbury Cathedral Girls' Choir and the Cambridgeshire Boys' Choir, who will be receiving some royalties from the record's sales, along with the Iris Fund. Dr Archer is no stranger to this repertoire: she is choir mistress in the local church and has also risen to the giddy height of president of the Guild of Church Musicians. But this marks the don's debut as a recording artist.

● A NEW departure for the British sculptor and last year's Turner prizewinner, Anish Kapoor, he is to create the designs for a dance show. Kapoor, best known for his enormous rock-like sandstone carvings, has been commissioned by the choreographer Laurie Booth to design the sets for Booth's new show, which opens in London in March and then tours nation-

ARTS BRIEFING

ally. The show also features an "octophonic sound environment" by the German sound artist Hans Peter Kuhn.

Soprano prize

SCOTLAND's premier arts prize, the £10,000 Gulliver Award, has gone to the soprano Margaret Marshall. The award is made annually to a performing artist who has made an outstanding contribution to Scottish cultural life. Marshall has remained loyal to Scottish Opera over a 20-year career embracing performances in the major European opera houses.

Bye-bye, Banton

IN THE competitive world of Jamaican reggae, or dance-hall reggae, 1992 has been the year of Buju Banton. Not everything in life is going Banton's way, however. Thanks to some allegedly

homophobic lyrics on a record called "Boom Bye-Bye", his invitation to appear at the Womad Winter Festival — at the Brighton Centre from December 4 to 6 — has been withdrawn. Asked by Womad to denounce his own song, Banton claimed that homosexuality ran counter to his religious beliefs. This response was deemed inadequate. In a clear case of poetic justice, Boy George will take his place.

Last chance...

ALBAN BERG's *Wozzeck* is not for those who go to the opera for good tunes and good fun. But it lays fair claim to being the quintessential tragic opera of our century: a study of a simple soldier's degradation at the hands of his superiors. In David Pountney's stunning English National Opera production (London Coliseum, 071-836 3161), last performance Thursday, all is laid brutally explicit, and Berg's anguished score is superbly served by the conductor Richard Armstrong and the magnificent Donald Maxwell in the title role.

"I AM LOST IN ADMIRATION FOR NEIL SIMON'S LOST IN YONKERS"

YED SHEPHERD - SUNDAY EXPRESS

NEIL SIMON
one of the more profound
comic geniuses in the world

MAUREEN LIPMAN
at her most comically touching

ROSEMARY HARRIS
surely one of the most remarkable
impersonations of old age the West End
stage has seen for many years.

I WAS ENCHANTED
NICHOLAS DE JONGH - EVENING STANDARD

"MOVES ONE TO TEARS"
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"DAVID TAYLOR's production is blessed with FINE PERFORMANCES and successfully captures the play's mixture of SADNESS AND LAUGHTER"
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"FLAWLESS ARTISTS of the calibre of ROSEMARY HARRIS & MAUREEN LIPMAN...can take his BRITTLE, BITING COMIC LINES and expose all the pain and heartbreak that lies behind them. An audience... will surrender to such A MAGIC COMBINATION"
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"THIS TRAGI-COMEDY IS BALEFULLY FUNNY, ruefully sad...so well written it has A UNIVERSAL APPEAL"
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In Paris, Peter Brook reworks Debussy's *Pelléas*. A disaster, says Rodney Milnes

This was a pretty rum evening, or *une soirée de rum joll*, as they say around here. *Impressions de Pelléas et Mélisande*, cuts it down to one hour and 40 minutes, and accompanies it with two pianos. Sometimes whole scenes are omitted — the gruff and the derelict, Yniold and the shepherd — while others are shortened, harmfully in the case of *Pelléas* and Golaud in the castle vaults, and the painful finale to Act III, when Golaud forces Yniold to spy on the lovers.

Tragedy reduced to after-dinner charades

chorusless *Pelléas* that might be useful to a company such as Scottish Opera Go Round touring in the Outer Hebrides. But what on earth is it doing in Paris of all places? Answer: it has been devised by Peter Brook and Marius Constant and is playing in the same theatre as their pointless *Tragedie de Carmen* ten years ago. After the Bouffes du Nord season ends on January 23, it tours Europe, including the Glasgow Tramway.

There might be some point to the project if Brook were bringing astounding new insights to bear, but this is not the case. As his public pronouncements at the time of the *Carmen* travesty suggested, he has become dangerously out of



Pelléas: everyday adultery

touch with the world of opera. It has simply overtaken him. The action of his *Pelléas* opens with the principals in turn-of-the-century costume gathering around a grand piano amidst draped furni-

ture, and smiling charmingly at each other as the player tackles the prelude. They then drift into character, and we begin. I see: *Pelléas* as after-dinner charades in a country house. Thanks a lot.

Pierre Strasser's Lyons production, which came to the Edinburgh Festival in 1985, was also in turn-of-the-century costume and infinitely more interesting. That was the one in which *Mélisande* had short hair and didn't die but instead exited serenely through the French windows of the salon in which the action was set. Nothing remotely as startling happens here. The run is triple cast, and in each *Mélisande* is sung by an oriental soprano, bringing a touch of Mme

Chrysanthe/Butterfly that is not developed. Little Yniold watches every scene intently, and that's just about it.

The stars of the show are the tastefully distressed Bouffes du Nord itself: Jean Kalman, who lights it exquisitely, and line Clément Ducloux as Yniold on the evening I attended — an effie six-year-old who alone supplied some sense of Maeterlinckian mystery. Otherwise, this was an everyday tale of bourgeois adultery, one at which the chic audience dithered when *Mélisande* lost her wedding ring and when Golaud tormented Yniold — a sure sign that something has gone disastrously wrong with any *Pelléas*.

It would be nice to encounter some of the cast in a proper production, especially the beautifully enunciated Genevieve of the Dutch mezzo Sylvia Schifter, the Canadian tenor Jean-François Lapointe (*Pelléas*), and Jungwon Park (*Mélisande*). On the whole, then, *pas beaucoup* fit.

مكتبات الأمل

How will his legacy be preserved?

John Percival on the Royal Ballet's revival of *Mayerling*, created by Sir Kenneth MacMillan, who died last month

The shock of Sir Kenneth MacMillan's dying during the opening night of the current Covent Garden revival of his *Mayerling* has prompted thoughts of where *Mayerling* ranks among his works, and where they, as a whole, are likely to stand in the repertoire ten, 20, 50 years from now.

The passing years have not so far provoked any major revision of views (famed when *Mayerling* was created in 1978; most people then thought (as I did) that the overwhelming role for the protagonist, combined with gripping parts for at least three of the women surrounding him, made up for the fact that the work was over-long, with a good deal of padding, and not always very clear. Dramatic surgery might have been a great benefit, and minor cuts MacMillan did make his time (the snowballing episode and the tiresome song at Franz's birthday party) are not enough. Another weakness is that the story assembled by John Lanchbery from bits and pieces of Liszt is patchy and could do with more vivid images.

At the same time, *Mayerling* seems to me equally the best of MacMillan's full-evening works. Nowhere else, perhaps, was his passion for innovative hazardous manoeuvres in its duets put to such vivid psychological use as in Prince Rudolf's terrifying treatment of his unfortunate bride on their wedding night or the scenes in which Rudolf and his new young mistress, Mary Vetsera, explore their joint obsession with a *Liebestod*.

For this, for the conviction of the scene involving the conniving ex-mistress Marie Larisch, for some incidental moments of bright youthful hope along the way, and above all for the immense power, scope and variety and intensity in the central role, we put up with the comic opera emperor, prime minister and Hungarian plotter, the calumnification of the empress's character, and the almost desecration of the corps de ballet in their few appearances.

Why, then, has *Mayerling* been given so rarely? It was absent from the boards since 1986, and clocked up only 59 performances before that, spread over a nine-year period. At Covent Garden, only the bestellers are seen frequently, and for ballet that has meant, in recent years, the 19th-century classics plus Ashton's *La Fille mal gardée* and Corderella and MacMillan's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Manon*. *Mayerling* was perhaps too dark in mood to join them, and, besides, casting it was not easy.

'The prospects for more than a small selection cannot be good'

My earlier description of the partnering as hazardous was not meant metaphorically; it presents real physical strain, with the hero's partners leaping at him, swinging round his neck, held behind his back, lifted and tumbled fiercely. The role needs a performer who can not only manage this, but dance with as much expressiveness as power, and act, too. When the ballet was new, David Wall and Stephen Jeffries both gave towering performances as Prince Rudolf, impressive dramatically and physically. Only now has a new generation emerged to rival, although by no means to surpass them.

We have seen three new Rudolfs. Irek Mukhamedov gave the most rounded and fully-charged performance, convincing in itself and reaching a strong dramatic rapport with Viviana Durante's sexy, frighteningly obsessive Vetsera and Lesley Collier's stily smiling Larisch. Zoltan Solymosi proved more uneven; strangely jokey in early scenes, at his best as the wild degenerate of the last act. Leanne Benjamin, his Vetsera, gave her dancing something of the madness

with which Lynn Seymour originally filled the role.

The surprise among the casts was young Michael Nunn's touching account of Rudolf, lacking only a little more force to sustain its best level throughout, but supple in movement and unusually expressive in his role as the birthday party. His Vetsera, also good, was Gillian Revic in her first major role.

With this influx of new blood, will *Mayerling* strengthen its foothold in the repertoire? Or will it sink into oblivion, like two other long ballets by MacMillan, *Isadora* and *Anastasia*? The factors that have held it back so far still apply. Apart from anything else, no company can afford to subject its leading men, however strong, to such strain too often.

And with MacMillan gone, what hope is there of the editing that could strengthen the ballet's good points and eliminate its weaknesses? Everyone feels free to change the choreography of Petipa or Bournonville, great masters of an earlier century; is it respect or only copyright that protects their successors from a similar process?

Meanwhile, MacMillan's artistic legacy will have to take its chance of survival against the caprices of changing taste. Some of his best ballets (*Song of the Earth*, *Requiem and Gloria*) are costly to stage because they need singers. Other works of his have lasted almost 40 years and are still popular, but will people think of *Dances concertantes* or *Solitaire* when he is not there to remind them?

Judging by the way most of Ashton's ballets have been neglected since his death, the prospects for more than a small selection of MacMillan's cannot be good. It is a gloomy thought that Covent Garden had already withdrawn his recent *Prince of the Pagodas* from this season's programmes for fear of poor box-office results. It will be a crying shame if the Royal Ballet loses too much of its heritage.



Viviana Durante and Irek Mukhamedov: "Prince Rudolf and his new young mistress, Mary Vetsera, explore their joint obsession" in the late Sir Kenneth MacMillan's *Mayerling*

CONCERTS

An opera house as if by magic

At the weekend the Barbican's "Tender is the Night" really was born as a festival. On Saturday, in a true event, typical of this festival's big thinking, an opera house, no less, arrived in the Barbican Hall.

With extraordinary virtuosity of idea (Elisabeth Söderström), scripting (Tore Rangström), design (Lars-Ake Thessman) and direction (Ivo Cramér), the 18th-century Drottningholm Court Theatre was recreated. A skeleton wooden frame housed its original mechanisms; the replica Gustavian sets slid into their *trompe l'oeil* perspectives. The costumed, bearded Drottningholm Baroque Ensemble, conducted robustly by Thomas Schimback, even brought their own music stands.

It was thanks to the assassination of King Gustav III (at the Masked Ball immortalised by Verdi) that the theatre is the perfectly preserved working model that it is today. The first half of the evening took us from its birth to curtain-down in 1792; the second celebrated its re-awakening, in 1921, and the recreation of its repertoire to the present day.

Söderström re-created, most revealingly, the character of Queen Louisa Ulrika, King Gustav's German mother. She it was who, in her desire to bring *Kultur* to the poor benighted Swedes, infected her son with an obsessive love of the theatre which was to lead to his downfall.

The overview of the theatre's subsequent activity, in extracts from home-grown Gustavian opera and ballet to a substantial and exquisitely staged scene from Handel's *Il pastor fido*, made for a ravishing second half. With Söderström as Drottningholm's new director, the revels are by no means ended.

Just three days earlier, the Barbican had been host to another major event: the British premiere of the complete score of Grieg's *Peer Gynt*, played by the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra under Neeme Järvi within an outstanding new adaptation and translation of Ibsen's play, commissioned by the Barbican from Laurence Howes.

Here were Grieg's 26 pieces in the order in which they appeared in his original 1875 version: here was "Morning". The Hall of the Mountain King and "Anitra's Dance" born again in their true context: here was the spoken word, hearty and heart-felt, sardonic and sensual, in the mouths of Simon Callow (Peer Gynt), Gerard Murphy (Boyg and Narrator) and Joanne Pearce (Anitra).

Grieg had wanted the *Halling* to sound from afar. Knut Buen and his Hardanger fiddle obliged. He had wanted heaven and earth to crumble at the end of the Troll hunt: with the Gothenburg Orchestra and the shrieks of the Tallis Chamber Choir they certainly did. Barbara Bonney sang Solveig as if the music had just been created: Håkan Hagegård excelled in Peer's ambivalent Serenade, and Susan Engel was as moving as his mother, Ase, as were the strings.

The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra's second Nielsen concert on Friday, with Simon Rattle conducting flaming performances of the Second and Fourth Symphonies, was an event in itself. With five rehearsals per concert, and the vision and conviction to realise the greatness in this music, Rattle has lifted the festival's orchestral programming to a new level.

HILARY FINCH

CINEMA: Geoff Brown welcomes the decision to make Britain a member of Eurimages

Late joining in the party



Happy partners: director István Szabó (front, left), Glenn Close and Niels Arestrup (front, right) with the cast of *Meeting Venus*

You win some, you lose some. Just when British scientists were grumbling over the government's decision to withdraw from the European Past Breeder Reactor programme, British film-makers suddenly perked up. For the first time in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement was a statement of intent from the Department of National Heritage to join Eurimages, a crucial support fund or European film co-productions, organised in 1988 under the umbrella of the Council of Europe.

All the other EC countries are members (Ireland, another lagard, joined in September). So are the Scandinavians: so are Poland, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Turkey, Cyprus and, two weeks ago, Bulgaria. But Britain stood on the sidelines and dithered, while participating countries used Eurimages funds to help make over 100 films, including Jaco Van Dornel's Belgian chamber *Toto the Fro*, Xavier Koller's Oscar-winner *Journey of Hope* and Volker Schlöndorff's Max Frisch adaptation *Voyager*.

It first sight the government's planing did not look too promising. "The UK plans to join Eurimages in 1993 if suitable terms can be agreed." To some this echoed the linguistic foot-dragging that surrounded the Exchange Rate Mechanism debate. But at the end of last week, word clearly emerged from the Heritage Department that the government meant business. As from April 1

next year, after payment of the yearly subscription (around £2 million), Britain will be a full member. In February, we will also be able to observe the group's next meeting in Strasbourg, when funds from Eurimages subscriptions will begin to be allocated.

"We feel very positive about it," declared Kim Ballard, finance director of British Screen, whose chief executive Simon Perry had been

lobbying fiercely for Eurimages membership as a simple and relatively inexpensive way to stimulate British film production. "It's tremendous news," said Will Stevenson, director of the British Film Institute, "both in itself and because it might signal other fiscal initiatives in the next few months. This is the biggest change in government thinking on the film industry in four years."

One possible reason for the change is that, month by month, Britain's isolation grew increasingly untenable, especially after Ireland joined and earned the right to use Eurimages funds for English-language productions, while our disadvantaged film-makers gnashed their teeth. The looming presence of the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-productions also helped.

There is also, possibly, the *Orlando* factor. Sally Potter's film of Virginia Woolf's novel, an entry at Venice this September, was denied Eurimages funding, though co-production partners France and the Netherlands were Eurimages members. Some observers believe this might have been a political decision, designed to jolt Britain, the film's lead co-producer, into joining.

But chiefly, the change is the direct result of persistent lobbying over the years by an industry eager to move into Europe but pulled back by lack of means. The removal of the film portfolio from the Department of Trade and Industry to the new Department of National Heritage probably eased the way, too. With Eurimages funding, British producers can at least start in the race for film financing from the same position as our neighbours. Eurimages has potentially some £17½ million available each year to help in the making and distribution of co-produced features and "creative documentaries".

Before we uncork the champagne, two thoughts demand utterance. The world has already seen too many "Euro-pudding" films, with actors from all nations trapped in limbo. David Putnam's production of István Szabó's *Meeting Venus* presented one ingenious solution, but we obviously cannot expect more than one film about the struggles of a multi-national opera company.

Once a convincing European co-production is made, another hurdle lies ahead: British distribution. Hollywood rules throughout the world's cinemas, and the present recession makes it harder than ever for art-house or European product to find a niche with a British distributor. But enough caveats. The government has offered film-makers a helping hand. Now, shall I fill your glass, Sir Richard?

INTO THE FOOTLIGHTS

THERE are now more than 17,000 members of The Theatre Club and every week The Club arranges a selection of special events for Club members money-saving offers. To join send a cheque for £12.50 made payable to The Theatre Club to: The Theatre Club, PO Box 3, Owen Road, Diss, Norfolk IP22 3HH. If you need more information telephone 071-387 9673.

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And the light fantastic Oscar Hammerstein's award winning *Carmen Jones* is the story of the world's most famous femme fatale set to music by Georges Bizet. Theatre Club members are invited to the Old Vic on Tuesday, December 1, for a special evening: to treat the famous boards in the footsteps of Keri, Olivier and Gielgud onto the Old Vic Stage: to a pre-show talk to meet Patti Boulaye and to a complimentary glass of wine at a cost of £2.50 per person. Book now on 071-387 9673.

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Femme fatale: Patti Boulaye

recently seen and a short critique of one of them, to: Martini Regional Theatre Awards, Bedford Chambers, The Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8HQ.

This week's offers include: Netherlands Dance Theater, Alhambra, Bradford (Dec 8-12) 20% off top-price seats, cost £18 (normally £22.50). Tel: 0274 752000.

The Odd Women, Royal Exchange, Manchester (Nov 23-26) 20% off, seats £12.32 or £9.36 (normally £15.40 or £11.70). Tel: 061-833 9853.

The Death Theatre Cwyd, Mold (Dec 1-3) 25% off, seats £5 (normally £5). Tel: 0362 755114.

Alfie, Theatre Royal, Newcastle upon Tyne (Nov 23-26) 10% off, seats £13.50 (normally £15). Tel: 091-232 2061.

Rambert Dance Company, Theatre Royal, Newcastle upon Tyne (Dec 1-3) 10% off, seats £11.25 (normally £12.50). Tel: 091-232 2061.

Dangerous Obsession, Royal Northern Sinfonia (Nov 30 to Dec 3) 20% off all normal seat prices of £7, £9, £10. Tel: 0604 32533.

19th Hole, Lyceum, Sheffield (Dec 7-10) £5 off, price £7.50 (normally £12.50). Tel: 0742 769922.

Relatively Speaking, Lyceum, Sheffield (Dec 14-17) Members price £8.50 (normally £12.50). Tel: 0742 769922.

Book now for any of these events on 071-413 1412, open 24 hours a day, or call the number given during box office hours. For general information, telephone 071-387 9673.

PERIOD MUSIC

Pedal-powered Mozart

constituent parts slot easily together.

The player, however, has a trickier problem to overcome. Fortepianos demand the most delicate touch from the fingers, feet, especially when shod, cannot reproduce such finesse. So David Rowland, the soloist, sensibly reserved the pedal contributions for those moments when, on a simple instrument, the left hand might come crashing down on bass notes. Mozart, unless he possessed curiously agile toes and played barefoot, must surely have done the same thing.

The overall effect in Rowland's opener (without orchestra), the C minor Fantasia, K475, was to make a grand piece a touch grander, more public. Maunder's pedal section has a deep and lovely resonance which complements the mellow, satin qualities of what stands above it. Rowland showed himself to be an excellent, confident player both here and in the C major Concerto, K466, where he understood both the rhetoric

and, in Maunder's delicious slow movement elaborations, the romance of the piece. The orchestra—based on only four first desk violinists—sounded ropy at times, but both here and in Mozart's Symphony No 41 it was obvious that Maunder's spirit had infected them thoroughly.

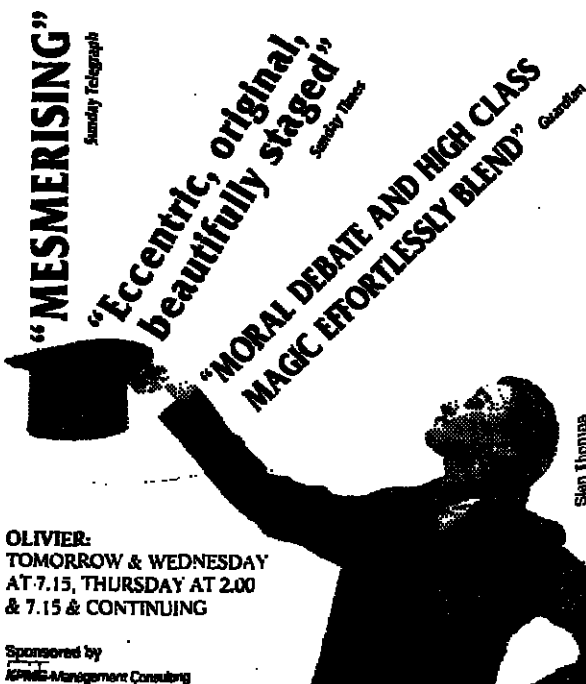
The previous evening, at the Wigmore Hall, the French baroque group Les Arts Florissants made a typically distinctive and elegant contribution to the Gala Reopening Festival. This was a tale of the exquisite, sensual intimacy of *airs de coeur* by the 17th-century composer Michel Lambert and the versatile accomplishments of his great contemporary Marc-Antoine Charpentier, whose music the group's director, William Christie, has done more than anyone to rehabilitate.

Charpentier's work as extracts from the operas *Actéon* and *Les Arts Florissants* proved, genuinely touches the heart. These, together with the hilarious self-parody of the *Intermède nouveau* for *Le Mariage forcé*, a couple of *airs de boire* and the three lovely airs on stanzas from *Le Cid*, put the single example of Lully, an extract from *Agas*, rather in the shade. Agnès Mellon, Françoise Semelaz, Valérie Picard, Mark Padmore, Stephen van Dyck and Jérôme Correas, all at one with this very particular style, shared the singing.

STEPHEN PETTITT

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EDUCATION

Why the NCC failed to deliver

The National Curriculum Council took too much power into too few hands, as its chairman's book shows, argues Michael Fallon

Of the more exotic blooms in the overheat greenhouse of late Thatcherism, none was stranger — to a Conservative — than the National Curriculum. Here was a government devoted to pluralism, not least to breaking the council monopoly of state schooling, yet insisting on centralising its teaching.

Kenneth Baker, the principal architect of the National Curriculum, had powerful arguments in its favour. Children could pass through our grimmer comprehensives without doing any science or a modern language. In too many inner city primary schools, subject-teaching had all but disappeared.

But few foresaw how quickly Parliament's insistence that the basics be taught and tested would be translated into centralised prescription and assessment of every iota of the curriculum.

What were once pupils, studies and tests became "age-weighted units", "SATS", "Key Stages One to Four", "attainment targets" and "Levels One to Ten". Two overweening bureaucracies, the National Curriculum Council (NCC) and the School Examinations and Assessment Council (SEAC), saddled the new curriculum with a panoply of working-groups, committees, panels and co-ordinators. In place of doubt, there were ever more expensive programmes of research to "monitor" and "evaluate" every new complexity.

Mr Baker compounded these horrors. Far too much detail was written into the primary legislation itself, leaving his successors little room to make it more manageable. And he magnanimously appointed to both the NCC and SEAC too many of those who had collaborated in the decline of the 1970s and early 1980s.

Thus was a monster created. The subject lobbies fought for equal time and space for the ten statutory subjects. Within each subject, competing ideologies fought each other, knowledge against understanding, facts against skills. To already overburdened "programmes of study"



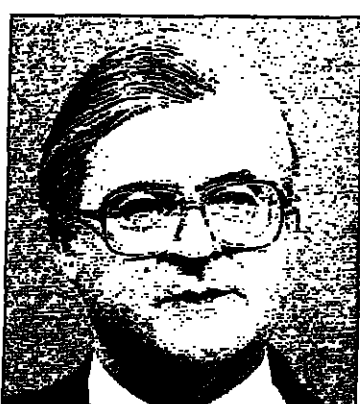
Defending the faith: Duncan Graham saw earlier than most that the curriculum would be swamped by too many compulsory subjects

and too numerous "attainment targets" the NCC added cross-curricular themes: embracing health, education, careers guidance and "economic and industrial understanding".

As the NCC's chairman and chief executive, Duncan Graham was in charge of this mess. Four years and hundreds of millions of pounds later, he concludes in his book, *A Lesson for us All*, that "there is little evidence of active harm".

Did ministers interfere? We certainly did. We were the ones visiting schools that were snowed under by NCC and SEAC paperwork. More important, if Parliament had not reserved the final decision on the shape of each subject to the Secretary of State, we would have seen history redefined as current affairs, geography covering politics but not places, and English shorn of grammar but including Monty Python.

Above all, we fought to simplify, to clarify, to reduce almost everything the NCC proposed. And the minister who interfered most effectively of all was neither John MacGregor nor Kenneth Clarke (who is the principal villain of Mr Graham's book) but John Major, the curriculum, he ruled, should be "a framework, not a straitjacket", and schools should have more choice about how to apply it.



Kenneth Baker: central planner

The biggest problem was time. To Duncan Graham's credit, he saw earlier than most that ten fully-fledged compulsory subjects would overflow the timetable and cripple proper preparation for either academic or technical qualifications. However, he failed to get a grip of his council or to keep up with ministerial thinking on how to tackle this problem.

Mr Clarke crucially lightened the load after age 14, allowing pupils to choose subjects now "unbundled": a second modern language, real English literature, the classics, some

Did ministers interfere? Yes. Otherwise history would have been current affairs, and geography would be politics not places

serious science. And the return to rigour in primary schools should leave no room for compulsory ballet or media studies. It is the crucial years from 11 to 14, when children's talents and aptitudes begin to emerge, that now need a hefty dose of ministerial "interference".

Of course, there have been some gains. Girls should do science, and all of us need some grasp of another language. An unbalanced curriculum, fossilised in time, only accentuates the artificial separation of the arts and the sciences that is seen in too many independent schools.

Indeed a society which lacks any collectively agreed core curriculum is well on its way to cultural disintegration. But a society that entrusts this curriculum solely to the state and its apparatus will advance no further than Sparta or Prussia. On the contrary, the growing diversity of the school system is a better safeguard of the common core.

It is not enough for a "national" curriculum to be "broad and balanced", in Mr Baker's talismanic prescription, if it fails to embrace the wider liberal and humane tradition of our learning.

Mr Graham may have been Mr Baker's principal pharmacist, but he need not have rushed into this defence. He has now served two education quangos as chief executive: Humberside county council and the National Curriculum Council. Both are now scheduled for abolition.

Their creators, Peter Walker and Mr Baker, the champion planners of the Conservative party, should reflect on why neither of them delivered the goods.

● The author is a former education minister. A Lesson for us All by Duncan Graham with David Tyler, is published by Routledge at £12.99.

Oh for a song to sing O!

How many of today's young people can "whistle all the airs from that infernal nonsense, *Pinafore*"? Precious few. As 1992 marks the 150th birthday of Sir Arthur Sullivan, this is an ideal time to revive Gilbert and Sullivan productions in schools. The educational gain would be considerable. As a precocious six-year-old, I was the only child in the class to know the meaning of the word "elliptical" when the teacher used it in connection with the earth's orbit. Why? I had seen *The Mikado* at the school where my father taught. That schoolboy Mikado lingered lovingly over "elliptical billiard balls" and grandiloquently mimed the shape.

Sullivan's splendid music also has much to offer. He parodied every possible style, sometimes so well that it almost surpasses the original. The finale of Act I of *Yeomen of the Guard* would not be out of place in a Verdi opera, perhaps *Il Trovatore*. The conservation evoked by Sullivan's music as it dwains on the guard that the condemned man has escaped from the Tower is remarkable. And Mabel's show-piece aria "Poor wandering One" in *The Pirates of Penzance* is so close to *The Magic Flute* that it forms a Victorian critique of Mozart's operatic style. There is plenty here for the music curriculum.

I remember vividly the superb Gilbert and Sullivan productions at

VIEWPOINT



Susan Elkin

Alley's school in the 1960s. Derek Searson's 17-year-old performance as Koko remains the funniest I have ever seen. Over the years I've seen many excellent G & S operettas in schools, and have rejoiced in the learning — history, politics, English, music — that stems from them. But not lately.

HMS Pinafore is a satire on 19th-century class barriers. Perhaps "Love can level ranks", but actually you can only "marry a wife" in your own rank of life. Birth is all. Education and training don't count. The policemen whose lots were unhappy, the openly corrupt judiciary ("all my law is fudge" / Yet I'll never never budge") of *Trial by Jury* and the peculiarities of inheritance law which underpins *Rudigore* are all worth investigating.

Education is about widening horizons, and a sense of history and change is vital to it. There is abundant material for debate here, comparing Victorian attitudes with today's. Sir Joseph Porter of *HMS Pinafore* (1879) is a send-up of W.H. Smith, the bookseller, created First Lord of the Admiralty by Disraeli. Just like *Spitting Image* really. Sir Joseph famously patters: I always voted at my party's call And I never thought of thinking for myself at all I thought so little they rewarded me...

What superb and timeless social observation.

Gilbert and Sullivan are out of fashion. Schools are choosing *Bugsy Malone*, *Annie*, *Grease* and other American ephemera for their annual shows. Try as I might, I can find no linguistic or musical interest in these. The words are banal and — dare I say? — sometimes ungrammatical. They encourage sloppy diction, often in an inauthentic mid-Western drawl. The repetitive and unmemorable music has to be crooned from the throat into a microphone. These "musicals" lack both depth and quality. One or two professional companies are mounting new productions of Savoy Operas this year to honour Sullivan's centenary — and a half. I doubt anyone will want to exhume *Grease* in 130 years' time.

So, I urge schools to follow the example of English National Opera and the New D'Oyly Carte. Gilbert and Sullivan's gems are part of the English heritage, and our children are entitled to experience them. What more enjoyable way could there be to investigate "cross-curricular themes"?

Competition is not all for the best

Mid-Wales is losing an education director who feels out of tune with new methods being imposed by government

Disillusionment with government policy exemplified in last week's examination league tables is forcing Robert Bevan, Powys's director of education, to leave his post after 25 years managing schools and colleges in mid-Wales.

He announced his decision on the day the Welsh office unveiled its table of authorities' examination results. Powys obtained the best GCSE results in Wales: 94 per cent of pupils passed at least one subject. But despite this Mr Bevan objects to league tables because they do not take into account pupils' backgrounds or schools' catchment areas. For him, the present "a simplistic view of success" and are symbolic of the market forces the government is imposing upon education.

"When I started, there was a very different climate," he recalls. "Education was a service, and the watchword was co-operation between schools, and between schools and their local education authority. Now it is all about competition, with schools fighting each other for pupils and resources. Competition is undoubtedly valuable in areas such as sport. But co-operation is a better way of getting the best from people and resources in education."

"Children's life chances are at risk, and my fear is that in this competitive climate those least able to look after themselves, such as the disabled or those with special needs, will go to the wall."

Mr Bevan is convinced that many of the government's reforms are impractical in rural counties like Powys.

"Issues such as parental choice are meaningless political gimmicks when secondary schools are 25 miles apart, as ours are, because choice is available only to those parents able to meet the expensive travelling costs."

Similarly, he regards grant-

maintained status as a "blind alley", hindering the ability of education authorities to dispense with expensive surplus places. No schools in Powys have opted out, although John Beddoes High School, Presteigne, considered the idea some years ago.

At primary level, a small village school at Llanerfyl, with 35 pupils, is investigating grant-maintained status as an alternative to closure. The fate of a few other small schools



Experience lost: Robert Bevan, education director

could be in the balance in future, as formula funding has highlighted the considerable expense of keeping such schools open. Many of Powys's 114 primaries are in this category, and Mr Bevan fears that local management of schools could accelerate the demise of some, as schools are made to compete more keenly for resources.

Mr Bevan does not oppose all the government's ideas. He agrees that the National Curriculum is a good thing, and that appraisal of teachers is necessary. Yet one aspect of the National Curriculum distresses him: the idea of testing children at seven. He recognises the value of assessment to

discover what children have learnt. But he worries that formal tests will come to dominate classroom practice as in the old 11-plus days, with teachers concentrating only on topics that will be assessed, at the expense of other, equally important subject areas.

After a quarter of a century running education, Mr Bevan bows out "disappointed" with the government. "Its marketplace philosophy is not to my taste," he says. And for that reason he is stepping down to enable someone else to steer Powys's schools through the choppy waters of competition.

That person will not be Mr Bevan's current deputy, Alun Evans, for he is also taking early retirement. He too is dissatisfied with the government's approach to education. "I do not agree with the recent white paper, because it undermines local education authorities," he says. But the principal reason for his departure is the change of emphasis being forced on Powys's education department.

Education authorities have had to reconsider their role under local management of schools with its increasing delegation of money and power to individual schools. In Powys, this is resulting in the education department having to become more marketing-orientated, because from next April it will have to sell many of the centrally-provided services it currently offers free.

"Schools will have to buy in the expertise of our subject advisers, peripatetic music teachers and welfare officers," Mr Evans says.

This approach is very different from the traditional duties of an education department. "Had the department remained as it was, I would have considered staying," Mr Evans admits. "But with the major reorganisation, it is time to go."

IOLA SMITH

Training to be better parents makes for better children



Helping hand: the prime responsibility for a child's education resides in the home

Parental participation in a child's education is a popular theme of the moment. But how are parents supposed to become involved? How should they contribute to their own children's education?

In Britain today it boils down to parent-governors, parent-teacher associations, parent evenings, and trying to supplement the teachers' efforts in reading, writing or perhaps computers. All of that may be helpful to the child's education, but on the other hand increasingly professional teachers are becoming a bit fed up with parents trying to tell them their job. The teachers may well ask: "Why don't parents do their own job by their own children and leave us to get on with ours?"

But what is the parents' job with their own children, and what should parental involvement in a child's education really mean?

At a conference near Milan a few weeks ago, sponsored by the European Parents Association, delegates were reminded about the parental role and — more importantly — shown how parents can really be helped to contribute to their children's education. I for one was so impressed that I shall be introducing pilot courses for a "School for Parents" here in Britain.

The prime responsibility for a child's education remains the parents' — not the teachers' and certainly not the state's. Most parents delegate their responsibility for formal education to teachers, but that leaves intact their prime role in the education of their children, and let's face it, children are in their parents' care far more time than they are in school.

Parents can be teachers too

It is the parents' job to teach children self-discipline, moral values (spiritual values as well, I hope), courtesy, how to treat others, kindness, integrity, how to speak coherently, sexual attitudes, and much, much more. But as parents many of us have forgotten how to do this, if we ever knew.

Of the approaches suggested at the Milan conference, the most effective was a "school for parents" devised by Professor David Isaacs, an Englishman who is professor of education at the University of Navarra in Spain. This would use parent evenings, those "social" gatherings, to far greater effect.

The "school" brings together parents, no more than eight or so at a time, for two evenings a month for six months, with homework to be done between meetings. Full documentation for the course has been written by Professor Isaacs and his colleagues, and already tried out in some countries. It can readily be adapted to British culture and requirements. It will be printed and published here in Britain.

Each module is pursued first through instructional material, and then followed by the

most interesting and lively part of the course: discussions of actual case-studies. During the course, parents rediscover their roles as educators of their children, and couples may rediscover themselves too. Most importantly, they now have guidance on how to go about it. For example, a case-study covers a difficult and withdrawn child, and leads the parents to think for themselves how they would overcome such a difficulty.

Another familiar question is how to deal with a child's developing awareness of sexuality, and how a parent should use such awareness to best effect in developing a responsible attitude towards sex. At the end of each evening, parents, if they have entered into the spirit of the course, are better informed, and thinking for themselves — though positively exhausted.

The leader or co-ordinator of the small group of parents for the six months is a parent from the school who has been enthusiastic enough to attend a previous course. Some parents on the course will in turn go on to guide others, and so on. To initiate the process a first set of "parental co-ordinators" from all over Britain will be invited to attend a two-day seminar addressed by Professor Isaacs himself, before the whole process snowballs from school to school.

These courses will reassert what parental involvement should be about, and will help parents to help their children. Parental participation will once again take on its true meaning. To use Professor Isaacs' words, it is a process of "family enrichment".

STUART SEXTON

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REPORTING THIS WEEK

Argyll's sales recipe expected to beat the recession

FIRST-HALF profits at Argyll Group, the Safeway to Presto supermarkets group headed by Sir Alistair Grant, should benefit from volume gains at established stores as well as sales from new supermarkets.

County NatWest is looking for pre-tax profits, due tomorrow, to rise 15 per cent to £200 million. Market forecasts range from £198 million to £205 million. An improved interim dividend of 3.6p (3.2p) is predicted.

The trading statement may be cautious, but Argyll should have dampened the effects of recession by using innovative sales offers and introducing new systems, while controlling costs across its stores and distribution network. Underlying like-for-like sales growth is expected to be 3.5 per cent.

TODAY

First-half profits at BET, the business services group headed by John Clark, will be depressed by the tough trading conditions affecting textile rental and plant hire, which is exposed to the beleaguered construction industry.

BZW has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £40 million

(£71.5 million). Market forecasts range from £38 million to £44 million. An interim dividend of between 2p and 2.5p is predicted, against 4.25p last time. Analysts will no doubt take a close look at the group's cash flow and gearing.

First-half profits at Emap publishing and exhibitions group, should climb to between £12.5 million and £13 million (£9.9 million).

Interims: Allen, BET, British Investment Trust, Danka Business Systems, Emap, Hewesons, Marling Industries, National Grid Co, National Grid Holdings, South Staffordshire Water Holdings.

Finals: Anglo Irish Bank Corporation, Chemex International, Diploma, Farnor, Whitley Leisure.

Economic statistics: Engineering sales and orders at current and constant prices (September), balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (October).

TOMORROW

Vodafone Group, the mobile telephone company, is expected to give details of the response to its recently introduced LowCall tariff as well as announcing a rise in profits.

Kleinwort Benson forecasts interim pre-tax profits ahead to £155 million (£140 million),

with market estimates ranging from £145 million to £160 million.

Analysts are looking for Vodafone's subscriber numbers to rise to about 760,000, while the number of people leaving the network as a proportion of the subscriber base is expected to decline.

Thorn EMI, the music and leisure group, is expected to report a slip in first half pre-tax profits to £90 million (£94.9 million), according to UBS Phillips & Drew. Market forecasts range from £85 million to £95 million. The effects of the Virgin deal may dilute earnings to 13.6p (17.6p) a share, but the dividend should be maintained at 9p.

Interims: Amber Industrial Holdings, Argyll Group, Dawson International, East Worcester Water, Evans of Leeds, GE International, Kalamazoo, Lowndes Lambert Group, Monks Investment Trust, NSM, Sims Food Group, Thorn EMI, Vodafone Group, Walker & Staff Holdings.

Finals: Apollo Metals, BBS Design Group, Fairline Boats, Genesis Chile Fund, Young (H) Holdings.

WEDNESDAY

Profits growth at Rothmans International, the tobacco to luxury goods group, will be held back by slightly lower

profits from the Dunhill subsidiary, weak results from the Far East and the strong pound.

Analysts are looking for interim pre-tax profits of between £261 million and £270 million, against £266 million last time. Despite this, Rothmans should have seen strong tobacco sales outside the Asia-Pacific region and will benefit from the weaker pound in the second half.

Improved market share should help full-year profits at **Kwik Save Group,** the discount supermarket chain, increase to £112 million (£101.8 million), according to Nomura. The forecasts are ranging from £109 million to £113 million.

Final pre-tax profits at **Tate & Lyle,** the world's largest sugar producer, are expected to decline by 20 per cent to £188 million, according to County NatWest. Market forecasts range from £188 million to £192 million.

Interims: Applied Holographics, Caledonia Investments, City of London PF Group, Harstone Group, ML Holdings, Marston Thompson & Evershed, Mid Kent Holdings, North West Water Group, Rothmans International, Sterling Industries.

Finals: ABI Leisure Group, Dunedin Worldwide Investment Kwik Save Group, Tate & Lyle.

Economic statistics: Construction — new orders (September — provisional).

THURSDAY

Interims: AAH Holdings, Airlow Streamlines, Alphameric, BPB Industries, Brockhampton Holdings, Brown & Taves, Cammidge Vitar Co, Castings, Chionde Group, Dart Group, Gibbs Mow, Grampian Television, Macdonald Martin Distilleries, North American Sales Investment Trust, Northern Foods, Powell Duffryn, Scarrone Holdings, Seton Healthcare Group, South West Water, Southnews, Stoddard Sekers International, Welsh Water.

Finals: Concentric Greyfers Investment Trust, Morland & Co, Scottish Investment Trust, Torringtons.

Economic statistics: Energy trends (September), new vehicle registrations (October).

FRIDAY

Interims: Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Brown Shipley Holdings, NEC Corporation, Thomson Oriental Income Fund.

Finals: Automagic Holdings.

Economic statistics: Inland Revenue statistics 1992, CBI monthly trends enquiry (November).

PHILIP PANGALOS



Sound figures: Sir Alistair Grant's Argyll should see profits rise 15 per cent

GILT-EDGED

Taking the risk out of inflation

The Bank of England has yet to become a monetary policeman equivalent in status to the Bundesbank. But it has become a probation officer responsible for keeping Britain on the straight and narrow vis-à-vis inflation.

By far the most important part of the Chancellor's Mansion House speech was the announcement that the Bank will provide a quarterly appraisal of how inflationary trends compare with the 1-4 per cent target. The report will become important because the Bank's credibility will be at stake.

This practice has special significance for Britain. Not only has it had one of the highest average inflation rates in the past 20 years, it has had one of the most volatile. From 1970 to 1991, the average core inflation rate was 9.6 per cent with a 5.8 per cent standard deviation. Australia had only a slightly lower average rate (8.8 per cent) but volatility of 3.4 per cent. On the other end of the scale, Germany's inflation rate and volatility were less than half Britain's.

Britain has thus had a high inflation uncertainty risk premium built into long-term gilt yields. If the UK could just reduce its average long-term inflation rate in line with its competitors, and also reduce volatility, long-term yields could be significantly lower.

High inflation creates uncertainty about monetary policy. With high inflation, policymakers face a dilemma: they would like to disinflate, but fear the resultant recession. The public faces the uncertainty of knowing the preferences of future policymakers and thus does not know whether disinflation will occur. When actual and expected inflation are low, however, there could be consensus on the authorities trying to keep them low, inflation targets are thus extremely important.

Thus, the Treasury's latest inflation forecasts for end-1993 caused concern, being at the top end of the target. This represented a shift from expectations earlier this year and reflected

estimates of the devaluation impact. If correct, it indicates that any further easing of monetary policy will be very modest. The Bank, however, seems to believe the devaluation effect will be more delayed than usual.

Since the inflation outlook is crucial for the path of long rates, it is not surprising that it has been at the heart of reports by gilt analysts. There seems to be an even divide between those who believe the underlying inflation rate is so low that devaluation will not be sufficient to threaten an inflation rate at/above the top end of the target and those who fear it could. I am in the latter camp.

My concern is not for any wage pressures of significance, which hardly seem likely with so much economic slack. Rather, I fear sterling's devaluation may have further to go and imported costs may rise further. This fear stems from the deterioration in the credit rating associated with a rise in the debt/GDP ratio.

The rise in the Budget deficit has been — and is likely to continue being — greater than the reduction in private sector debt ratios. This increasing indebtedness undermines the currency and risks a greater devaluation than to date. The risk is that the underlying inflation rate will be held within the top half of the preferred range and, indeed, on a year's view, will be heading to 4 per cent.

Since the prospective and not the present inflation rate matters in setting monetary policy, we would not expect any rush to ease further. If policymakers needed an imperfect independent guide, they need look no further than the gilt market, especially the implied long-term inflation rate derived from the difference between conventional and index-linked gilts.

As this yield gap signals longer-term inflation expectations nearer to 5 than 4 per cent, it would also suggest further easing should be delayed until inflation expectations improve.

MICHAEL HUGHES
Barclays de Zotte Wedd

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

HOBDAV

(c) To operate on a horse in order to improve its breathing, an eponym from the nomenclator F. T. Hobday, veterinary surgeon, 1869-1939, from the horse's mouth. "I contributed considerably to the successful establishment of an operation now familiarly known as being Hobdayed."

TILBURY

(c) A light open two-wheeled carriage, fashionable in the first half of the 19th century, named after its inventor: "Gigs, phaetons, large-wheeled tilburys, and private carriages, drawn by fine blood horses."

PEMBROKE

(b) and (c) The tiresome man who took over Leinster against Henry II's better judgment; also a table supported on four fixed legs, having two hinged side portions or flaps, which can be spread out horizontally, and supported on legs connected with the central part by joints: "She sold a damaged Pembroke table skilfully repaired by Fritz to a woman who was actually looking for a brass fender."

COLLINS

(c) A thank-you letter, named after the verbose and obsequious clergyman in *Pride & Prejudice*. As a drink, Collins needs to be prefixed by John or Tom.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

Black checkmated white with the brilliant 1... Qxb2+ 2 Kxb2 Nc4+ 3 Kb3 (2 Kc1 Bb2 mate) 3... Na5+ 4 Kxb4 Rb8+ 5 Kxa5 (5 Ka3 Bb2 mate) 5... Bc3 mate.

MOVE YOUR COMPANY TO WHERE YOU'RE WITHIN ONE HOUR'S DRIVE OF 20 MILLION PEOPLE, WHERE YOU HAVE ONE OF THE MOST HIGHLY TRAINED WORKFORCES IN EUROPE ON YOUR DOORSTEP AND WHERE BUSINESSMEN WITH VISION FLOURISH. MOVE TO BRITAIN'S FASTEST GROWING CITY. YOU GET MORE IN MILTON KEYNES.

CONTACT MILTON KEYNES MARKETING: 0908 231900

مكتبة الأمل

Portfolio Plus				
From your Portfolio Plus card check your eight share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily total figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If it doesn't, you will follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.				
No.	Company	Group	Share Price	Dividend
1	Indochina	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
2	Multimedia Elec	Electrical	1.00	0.00
3	Diploma	Industrial	1.00	0.00
4	Mission Trust	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
5	Proforma Alps	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
6	Unicomp	Electrical	1.00	0.00
7	Chimberlin Hill	Industrial	1.00	0.00
8	Transport Data	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
9	Freight Review	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
10	City Site Est	Property	1.00	0.00
11	British	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
12	Dewson	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
13	FKI	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
14	S&U	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
15	Aut New Z	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
16	King Shanon	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
17	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
18	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
19	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
20	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
21	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
22	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
23	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
24	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
25	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
26	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
27	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
28	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
29	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
30	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
31	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
32	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
33	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
34	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
35	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
36	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
37	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
38	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
39	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00
40	Wolsey	Business Serv	1.00	0.00

£1,000 MATCH THE SHARES
If you have ticked off your eight share price movements on this page, you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If it doesn't, you will follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

Winners of the £2,000 Portfolio Plus prize are: D Perry, Whetstone, Leicestershire; W Rood, Blackpool, Lancashire; W Rood, Blackpool, Lancashire.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

BREWERS				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

BUILDING, ROADS				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

ELECTRICALS				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

INDUSTRIALS				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

HOTELS, CATERERS				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

INVESTMENT TRUSTS				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

OILS, GAS				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

WATER				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

Capitalisation, week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 16. Dealings end November 27. Settlement date December 7. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's closing prices. But adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend, market closes, and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Mkt cap				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

ELECTRICITY				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

FINANCE LAND				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

FINANCIAL TRUSTS				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

FOODS				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

HOTELS, CATERERS				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
47.500 Abbey Ind	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
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INDUSTRIALS				
Company	Price	Wtd	Net	P/E
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Consumer mini-boom forecast for 1994

By GEORGE SIVELL

THE second half of 1993 is expected to see rising consumer optimism and growth of sales of durable goods as the housing market moves out of recession and as cyclical factors take effect, a report on the future of British retailing concludes.

Cambridge Econometrics and the Centre for Business Research at Manchester Business School say that the devaluation of the pound will cause household incomes to grow only very slowly in the short term, although the lowering of interest rates could offset some of the damage. In the short term, consumer demand is expected to remain subdued.

But, in the medium term, strong export growth based on a world recovery and increased competitiveness in world markets, together with the stimulus to the housing market of lower interest rates, are expected to lead to a mini-boom, peaking in 1994.

The weaker pound should bring higher import prices and higher shop prices, but the full impact is likely to be reduced by foreign manufacturers accepting a reduction in margins and British producers choosing to take some of the gains from depreciation in the form of improved competitiveness rather than raising pound prices and profit margins by the full extent allowed by devaluation.

The report points out that retail sales growth has failed to keep pace with the growth of consumer spending, as discretionary spending has focused on leisure and goods and services not traditionally supplied at retail outlets. Over the next few years retail sales growth is expected to remain slightly above total consumer expenditure. Between 1992 and 1995 retail sales are expected to grow 2.3 per cent a

year and consumer expenditure by 2.1 per cent a year. Much of the expected improvement in the retail market is based on the housing market. The report points out that because of the fall in house prices and the continued rise in average earnings the ratio of house prices to earnings now stands at 3.57, well below the 3.75 that prevailed in the pre-boom period in the 1980s. In addition, the reports shows how mortgage repayments as a percentage of average earnings peaked at about 44 per cent in February 1990, and now stands at 28 per cent, the level reached before the last house price boom in 1988.

The report says that these sharp declines "demonstrate the degree of improvement in affordability that has now taken place. Taking the housing market in isolation, it is reasonable to suggest that all the ingredients for a recovery in activity are in place. However, the general economic environment is unfavourable in the short term and this will mean that confidence will be slow to return."

A mild degree of recovery is expected to begin next year, with consumer spending projected to grow for the first time since 1990, increasing by 0.7 per cent over 1993.

The "buy now, pay later" days of the 1980s credit boom are over and for most Britons cash is now king, a Mori poll of 1,109 adults commissioned for the BBC Money Programme showed.

Asked what they would do if their income rose, 5 per cent said they would buy on credit against 81 per cent, who thought it better to save and use cash. Fifty per cent felt the economic situation would get worse in the next 12 months, while 21 per cent thought things would improve.

Banking by the book costs customers dear

Derek Harris finds banks' inflexibility is the small firm's biggest complaint

JAIME Graham and his wife, Diana, who run the Judy and Punch Puppet Company, from their Norfolk base, are taking complaints about their treatment by Lloyds Bank during the recession to the banking ombudsman. They say their business of eight years has been lucky to survive an experience that they claim cost them at least £10,000 in lost business.

Alex McIntyre, who makes energy-saving mini-greenhouses in a factory in the western highlands of Scotland, says that in his worst cash-flow crisis the only people who really offered him sympathy and support were his suppliers. He was beset by banking unhelpfulness and a blunt warning from government departments that non-payment of VAT and PAYE dues would result in closure.

These examples of small businesses bludgeoned by the reactions of the banks to recession are among many that have flooded in to small business representation groups such as the Forum of Private Business and the Federation of Small Businesses.

The bulk of small business complaints are about bank overdraft rates, say both the Forum and the Federation. The concern is about big margins, which for some are imposed above base rate. The Forum believes base rate cuts as such are generally passed on by banks to customers.

The Grahams, customers of Lloyds Bank for 25 years, say they ran into problems in February last year when a new bank manager asked for a substantial and immediate reduction in an overdraft secured against two bank-held savings policies. Mr Graham said: "That was a miserable time."

They believe that at a time when all banks were under pressure, Lloyds was not interested in their business. They kept going by cashing an insurance policy. Subsequent disputes with the bank are unresolved and Mr Graham has prepared a submission for



"Oh yes we will". Jaime and Diana Graham are going to the banking ombudsman

the ombudsman. The Grahams are now with Barclays in Fakenham, Norfolk. "They have not only stood by us financially but also given us moral support," he said.

Mr McIntyre, in business for 12 years, took on a bigger factory for Backwoodsman, his company, at Barcaldine near Oban, Argyll, in 1990 to produce mini-greenhouses.

Various production problems delayed a volume start until well into this year, Mr McIntyre said. "As soon as we hit cash flow problems I kept suppliers and other creditors informed. I expected to resolve the crisis in four to six weeks and that in fact proved to be the case."

His suppliers all registered sympathy and support. Lloyds, his bank, rechecked its security over the McIntyre home and factory, then bounced three cheques without even a warning phone call. There was a subsequent apology and Mr McIntyre says he has now "sorted things out" with the bank. He said: "There has now been a positive response from the bank."

He added: "The PAYE and VAT people left me in no doubt they would shut us down without hesitation if we failed to pay our dues. What would that achieve? Six people would be drawing unemployment pay and the prospect would have gone for good of collecting taxes from the business in the future."

Failure to inform is small firms' big fault

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A BREAKDOWN in communication is what bank managers fear most in relationships with small business customers, according to the head of National Westminster's small business services.

Jane Bradford says if managers do not hear from a company when it has problems they tend to expect the worst. "The accusations we hear about banks being high-handed often come from a lack of communication. If there is no information, a manager may well start bouncing cheques when there is no borrowing agreement," she said.

The high street banks have been savaged by bad debt provisions in the last two years, and small business lending is one of their riskiest markets. Barclays says it has made provisions of more than £1 million a day on loans to small companies and the operation has been making losses for at least two years. An estimated 60,000 companies, out of a total of 3 million, are expected to go into receivership or liquidation this year in Britain.

As a result, banks have become wary in their dealings with small companies. Ms Bradford thinks it is one of a

bank manager's most difficult decisions when he thinks a company is no longer viable. "But then it is in nobody's interest to allow them to continue to trade," she said. In these cases, a bank will refuse to increase lending to a company to prevent its owners taking on liabilities they will never be able to repay.

"In this recession, there has been a domino effect among some companies. Suddenly, a healthy business will hear that an important customer has gone to the wall and it can be in trouble," she said.

Ms Bradford stresses that all banks want to see their customers stay in business wherever possible. "We have a vested interest in seeing as many customers as possible survive the recession. They are the customers of the future."

Engineering employers to unveil revival strategy

THE Engineering Employers' Federation will today unveil its blueprint for Britain's industrial revival, in keeping with its pledge to produce the industrial strategy in six weeks that the government had failed to draw up in six months. In spite of the government's declared conversion to policies in support of economic growth, the federation's document insists that unemployment is rising daily, businesses are still closing at an alarming rate, and "confidence is at an all-time low". The foreword adds: "There is an urgent need to start rebuilding our manufacturing base while there is still time."

The federation's proposals are based on views from almost 5,000 member companies. They are expected to include measures that will have a quick effect on Britain's balance of payments deficit, as well as proposals to bring about a long-term revival of technology and industry. The federation has promised to find ways of promoting investment in manufacturing, achieving "urgently needed" improvements to transport infrastructure, and help prevent the skills of the jobless going to waste. A huge increase in investment is expected to form the core of the programme. The federation is expected to argue that investment in industry should be reviewed against achievable rates of return and that financial institutions should accept more modest dividends, so that companies have more funds available for investment.

Unilever raises stake

UNILEVER, the international processed food and consumer products company, will pay 370 million rupees (£8.5 million) to raise its stake in Lipton India from its present 40 per cent to 51 per cent. Lipton India, which blends and packages tea as well as producing animal feeds and edible oils, will use the capital to develop its food processing lines including instant tea, fish feed and margarine. An extraordinary general meeting will be held in Calcutta on December 23 to approve the proposed majority holding by Unilever.

Decision day at O&Y

OLYMPIA & York Developments is expected to know today whether its Canadian property empire will be broken up and its American business forced into bankruptcy. In Canada, O&Y will seek extra time for a third rewrite of its debt restructuring plan, which would give secured creditors power to seize buildings and unsecured creditors a 90 per cent stake in a new company managing what remains. In America, talks will continue over an \$8 million repayment that should have been paid on Friday by O&Y's US arm to the Swiss Bank.

GPA seeks loans delay

GPA group, the world's largest aircraft leasing company which has failed in three of its last four attempts to raise fresh cash, is likely to seek delays in repaying bank loans of \$900 million at a meeting of 100 bankers at the Intercontinental Hotel in London today. The request is regarded as key to the \$2.7 billion debt-restructuring package. GPA's presentation to the banks will be led by John Tierney, chief financial officer, and Maurice Foley, deputy chairman. Ann Lane of Citibank will make the presentation of the actual funding proposal.

Japanese recovery hope

EIGHTY-seven per cent of Japanese companies believe the domestic economy will recover after April next year, according to the results of a survey published by the *Asahi Shimbun*. The figure compares with 58 per cent in a similar survey conducted in early September, the newspaper said. The survey was carried out from November 9-17 and covered 100 leading companies, comprising 52 manufacturers and 48 non-manufacturers. About 47 per cent said that an income tax cut would aid an early recovery.

Burger King faces fines

GRAND Metropolitan's Burger King fast food chain is expected to pay \$500,000 in fines for violating working hours for under 16-year-olds. As part of the settlement with the American labour department, which still has to be approved by a Miami judge, Burger King would have to appoint an ombudsman to oversee compliance with child employment laws and monitor employees' hours by computer. Federal officials alleged Burger King had required teenagers to work in excess of permitted hours in its 800 restaurants in America.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND
US dollar 1.5202 (-0.0258)
German mark 2.4224 (-0.0025)
Exchange index 78.4 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKS

FT 30 share 2035.9 (+14.3)
FT-SE 100 2732.4 (+34.9)
New York Dow Jones 3227.36 (-5.67)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 17033.60 (+702.81)

Hambros deal agreed

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ALLIED Provincial, the private client stockbroker, has sold its back-office settlement operation to Hambros, the merchant bank, in an innovative deal that is likely to be copied by other brokers that need to cut their spending on



Solomons: reorganisation

information technology. Hambros Clearing has bought Allied's clearing and settlements department in Glasgow, with 120 employees, for an undisclosed sum.

From now on, the bank will handle all Allied's settlement business under contract, and be liable for any errors.

Hambros was attracted to the operation because of the introduction of the advanced Tarot settlements system that the bank may introduce into the other parts of its bonds and derivatives settlement business, which will be centred in London and Glasgow. Allied, which has 150,000 customers, said that the reorganisation would give it more time to serve its customers. Bernard Solomons, the chairman, said: "We don't want to be computer experts, we want to be brokers again."

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NEW INVESTMENT RATES FROM THE CHESHIRE

FROM 23RD NOVEMBER 1992				
PREMIUM 60 Annual interest %	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS CAR.	NET CAR.
£50,000+	7.50	6.45	-	-
£25,000+	6.55	5.40	-	-
£10,000+	6.05	4.95	-	-
£5,000+	5.80	4.75	-	-
PREMIUM 60 INCOME Monthly interest %	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS CAR.	NET CAR.
£100,000+	7.75	6.70	8.00	7.00
£50,000+	7.50	6.45	7.50	6.50
£25,000+	6.85	5.80	7.05	6.05
£10,000+	6.35	5.30	6.55	5.55
£5,000+	6.05	5.00	6.25	5.25
£1+	5.27	4.25	5.40	4.40
PREMIUM ACCESS Annual interest %	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS CAR.	NET CAR.
£50,000+	6.45	5.40	-	-
£25,000+	6.20	5.15	-	-
£10,000+	5.95	4.90	-	-
£5,000+	5.70	4.65	-	-
£1+	5.27	4.25	-	-
CLOSED ISSUES				
SUPERSHARE PLUS Annual interest %	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS CAR.	NET CAR.
£50,000+	4.55	3.41	-	-
£25,000+	4.30	3.23	-	-
£10,000+	4.15	3.11	-	-
£5,000+	4.05	2.99	-	-
£1+	3.90	2.77	-	-
CAPITAL PLUS MONTHLY Annual interest %	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS CAR.	NET CAR.
£50,000+	4.55	3.41	-	-
£25,000+	4.30	3.23	-	-
£10,000+	4.15	3.11	-	-
£5,000+	4.05	2.99	-	-
£1+	3.90	2.77	-	-
CAPITAL PLUS Annual interest %	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS CAR.	NET CAR.
£50,000+	4.55	3.41	-	-
£25,000+	4.30	3.23	-	-
£10,000+	4.15	3.11	-	-
£5,000+	4.05	2.99	-	-
£1+	3.90	2.77	-	-
CHAMPION BOND (2nd ISSUE) Half yearly interest %	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS CAR.	NET CAR.
£50,000+	4.22	3.17	-	-
£25,000+	4.07	3.05	-	-
£10,000+	3.90	2.77	-	-
£5,000+	3.75	2.62	-	-
£1+	3.60	2.47	-	-
CHAMPION BOND (3rd ISSUE) Annual interest %	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS CAR.	NET CAR.
£50,000+	4.22	3.17	-	-
£25,000+	4.07	3.05	-	-
£10,000+	3.90	2.77	-	-
£5,000+	3.75	2.62	-	-
£1+	3.60	2.47	-	-
PREMIUM INCOME Annual interest %	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS CAR.	NET CAR.
£50,000+	5.85	4.80	-	-
£25,000+	5.65	4.60	-	-
£10,000+	5.45	4.40	-	-
£5,000+	5.25	4.20	-	-
£1+	5.05	4.00	-	-
CAPITAL PLUS SPECIAL ISSUE Annual interest %	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS CAR.	NET CAR.
£50,000+	5.27	4.25	-	-
£25,000+	5.07	4.05	-	-
£10,000+	4.87	3.85	-	-
£5,000+	4.67	3.65	-	-
£1+	4.47	3.45	-	-
THRIFTY SAVERS Annual interest %	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS CAR.	NET CAR.
£50,000+	4.22	3.17	-	-
£25,000+	4.07	3.05	-	-
£10,000+	3.90	2.77	-	-
£5,000+	3.75	2.62	-	-
£1+	3.60	2.47	-	-
ORDINARY SHARE Half yearly interest %	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS CAR.	NET CAR.
£50,000+	4.22	3.17	-	-
£25,000+	4.07	3.05	-	-
£10,000+	3.90	2.77	-	-
£5,000+	3.75	2.62	-	-
£1+	3.60	2.47	-	-

The gross rate of interest on all other closed issue accounts will be reduced by 1% gross per annum, except for accounts where the resulting rate would be less than 1% gross. In these cases the rate will be reduced to 1% gross per annum.

FROM 16th DECEMBER 1992		
TESSA	GROSS RATE	MORTGAGE RATES
£1,000+	8.00%	The basic rate of interest charged on existing mortgages for
£1+	7.50%	over 10 years will be 8.55% from 16th December 1992, or at a later date subject to the terms of the mortgage deed.

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COMMENT

Sale of BT shares needs new ideas

Down at British Telecom, the prospect of the government making a final exit from its share register next year might have brought relief. The state had become a weak holder, still clouding BT's private sector status. There must also, however, have been groans at Norman Lamont's insistence that the sale was to be another exercise in widening share ownership. The last of these exercises put the company into a prolonged state of limbo, leaving it as something of a spectator, watching others argue furiously over its merits. It also seemed to act as a red rag to Ofel, BT's regulator.

Prior to the somewhat larger sale a year ago, BT already had 1.1 million shareholders, all but 23,000 of which were individuals. After that elaborate and ingenious exercise, BT had added a further 1.6 million new private shareholders, which is surely as wide as even Britain's biggest company might wish to go. In the seven-year gap since the 1984 flotation, the first privatisation aimed at the ordinary public, a new generation of investors had grown up and the habit of shareholding had taken hold.

No comparable change is likely to take place before the next sale. Most people who want a stake in BT probably have one by now, so there is little to be said for another privatisation circus in the moral cause of wider share ownership *per se*. The emphasis now is on deepening share ownership by encouraging the millions who own shares only in privatised utilities to venture into the rest of British business without the benefit of free gifts and massive publicity campaigns. The Treasury made an innovative effort at such social engineering in the 1991 sale, by channelling BT investors into share shops, but without much apparent success.

Marketing of the final BT share sale should therefore be pitched on cold calculations of what will yield the best result for the taxpayer. Increasing the potential market is certainly a help. However, only about 350,000 of the original 1984 investors topped up in 1991. If the next sale is aimed at the public, therefore, it will probably be dredging a smaller market than in 1984 or 1991.

Private investors have had to be offered costly incentives and discounts, especially in a secondary sale, so that they are unlikely to show an initial loss. Those who bought in 1991, and held on, have fared well enough, but the BT share price was shaky in the early months. Discounts can be justified to the taxpayer only if private demand drives the issue and allows the managers to push wily institutions into scrambling for the stock with their chequebooks, while they talk it down.

Unless the marketing people can think up something new to tempt the jaded private investor to take a third bite at BT, they might better take a different approach to maximising sale proceeds. Michael Heseltine could certainly help by setting a date when general price control will finally end.

Major's huge borrowing spree sends Britain towards uncharted waters

Unless there is action soon to accelerate the feeble recovery forecast, Britain will face a calamity, Anatole Kaletsky writes

Beware the uncomprehending zeal of the sudden convert. The Autumn Statement was the symbolic affirmation of John Major's forced conversion to the new creed of recovery and growth. The mini-budget was supposed to "re-balance" policy, by simultaneously cutting interest rates and tightening public spending targets. In fact, it did nothing of the kind. The Autumn Statement loosened both monetary and fiscal policy. But the two types of stimulus have been so poorly timed and uncoordinated that the effect on the economy was calculated as almost nil. That, of course, was just what the Treasury wanted.

But if the mandarins thought they would have a quiet life after fudging the new economic policy, they probably made a mistake. For as the new policy sinks in, a nasty realisation is gradually spreading: unless something happens soon to accelerate the feeble recovery the Treasury has forecast, Britain will face another economic calamity. Mr Major will be running up the biggest deficits ever recorded by any government, almost anywhere in the advanced industrial world.

The City knows that the government must borrow vast sums of money because of the depth of recession, but the scale of the prospective deficits has not remotely sunk in. For John Major has embarked on a borrowing spree that has no parallels in modern history, at least outside Italy.

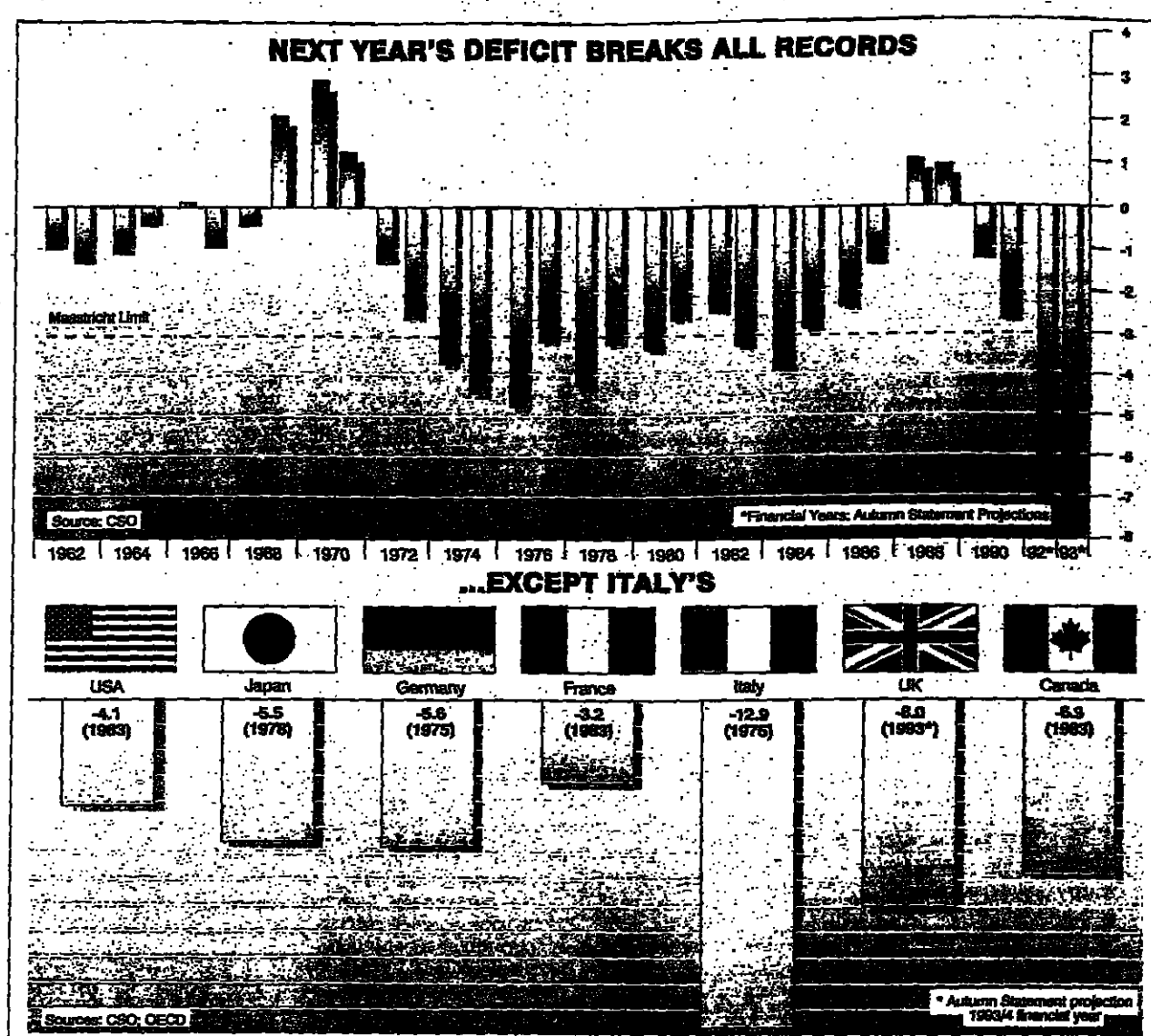
The consequences that may follow from Mr Major's experiment in deficit financing are impossible to predict. What can be said with certainty, however, is that none of the

recent experiences with large deficits, either in Britain in the 1960s and 1970s, or in America during the Reagan period, have been comparable in scale to what the government is doing now. Thus it may be far too optimistic to assume that the inflation and interest rate consequences of Britain's huge borrowing will be as innocuous as they proved in America after the 1980s. A more relevant model for Mr Major may be the Wilson-Collaghan government of 1974 to 1979 or the Italian government today.

In the Autumn Statement, the Chancellor officially forecast a public sector borrowing requirement of £37 billion, or 6 per cent of gross domestic product this financial year, rising to £44 billion, or 7 per cent of GDP, in 1993-4.

The Chancellor assured Parliament that big deficits were natural in a recession and added that he would take no lectures on borrowing from Labour, which had run up far bigger deficits in the 1970s, until it finally lost control in 1976 when British economic policy was taken over by the IMF. Mr Lamont's most important and sceptical audience, the Conservative backbenchers, were duly relieved.

Unfortunately, however, the Chancellor's reading of history was misleading, if not exactly false. It is true that the PSBR reached 9.6 per cent of GDP in 1975 and exceeded the 7 per cent of GDP officially projected for 1993-4 in three out of the five years of the last Labour government. But this comparison gives no idea of the relative stance of fiscal policy in the two periods because the PSBR in the 1970s was a different animal from the one that has evolved today. The PSBR is a uniquely



British statistical oddity that in the 1970s lumped the commercial borrowing of such state-owned utilities as BT and British Gas with the fiscal gap between the government's spending and taxes.

It also includes privatisation proceeds as "negative spending" and, in the 1970s, incorporated the massive spending on nationalising shipbuilding and aerospace. As a result, in the 1970s the PSBR hugely exaggerated the gap between the government's continuing spending and taxation. On the other hand, since the mid-1980s, the PSBR has understated, albeit by a smaller margin, the true magnitude of Britain's fiscal gap.

The PSBR concept has its use. It indicates how rapidly the national debt is increasing and how many gilt-edged securities have to be sold. But it is almost universally recognised, at least outside the Treasury, as an inappropriate measure of a government's underlying fiscal stance or of the total demands made by the public deficit on private savings and financial markets. For these basic macro-economic judgments, a more straightforward and internationally comparable statistic is used.

The general government financial deficit (GGFD) simply measures the difference between total tax collections and the net spending by all levels of central and local government. The GGFD has been agreed by the British Treasury and other finance ministries as the appropriate

gauge for measuring convergence of fiscal policies under the Maastricht treaty (although typically this is never made clear in the treaty itself). The GGFD is also the measure of fiscal stance published on an internationally comparable basis by the OECD and the IMF. It is also the measure of fiscal stance that has most direct relevance for the workings of the economy in almost any economic model.

Why, then, does the government, which until two months ago accorded to the Maastricht convergence criteria the status of divine revelation, now pay so little attention to the GGFD? Because the GGFD, unlike the PSBR, shows that the Treasury is heading into uncharted fiscal waters.

Until this year, the biggest financial deficit run up by a British government was 4.9 per cent of GDP, in 1975. This year, Norman Lamont expects a GGFD of 7 per cent of GDP and the official PSBR projection for 1993-4 implies a GGFD of 8 per cent of GDP. Many private analysts expect a much higher number. Goldman Sachs, using a model similar to that of the Treasury, forecast a GGFD of 9.5 per cent in each of the next two fiscal years. This would be almost double the biggest deficit Labour ever ran.

The international comparisons are even more disturbing. The second chart shows the biggest deficits recorded in each of the G7 countries since 1972, and therefore almost certainly the biggest they have recorded since the immediate post-war period. The figures, compiled by the OECD, reveal

that no G7 country apart from Italy has ever had a deficit as big as 7 per cent of GDP (the figure Mr Lamont predicts for the current year). As for next year, the projected general government deficit of 8 per cent of GDP, not to mention the 9.5 per cent forecast by Goldman Sachs, is completely outside the realm of international experience apart from Italy. During the much-maligned fiscal profligacy of Reaganomics, the biggest GGFD America recorded was 4.1 per cent of GDP in 1983.

How did Britain, which in the late 1980s had the strongest fiscal position in Europe, find itself in this predicament? And where will it all lead?

The huge deficits were caused by the recession. Every time GDP falls 1 per cent below its trend growth rate, the deficit increases by between 0.75 and one percentage point.

Thus, the fact that the economy is now expected to shrink by 1 per cent in the current financial year instead of growing by 2 per cent as the last Budget predicted, accounts on its own for the jump in this year's projected deficit from 4.5 to 7 per cent of GDP.

However, once a high deficit is established, it will not come down again if the economy simply returns to the trend growth rate required to stabilise unemployment and industrial capacity, thought to be about 2.5 per cent. For the deficit to fall, unemployment must also start falling and tax revenues must rise much faster

than GDP. This requires a period of above trend growth with GDP rising at about 3.5 per cent annually.

The only way the government will be able to avoid an Italian-style fiscal crisis will be by doing something to trigger rapid economic growth. Given the size of the deficits, the only available instrument to kick-start rapid growth will be sharp cuts in interest rates and probably more devaluation. The alternative of trying to close the deficits by raising taxes will not work unless the higher taxes are matched with even more swinging cuts in interest rates.

Either way, interest rates and sterling will go on falling, until a strong recovery is clearly under way. The only question is whether the cuts in interest rates and the fall in sterling will happen early enough in the economic cycle to avoid rapid inflation. If the Treasury refuses to narrow the deficits by kick-starting rapid economic growth with low interest rates, the markets will eventually take the law into their own hands. As in 1976, a fiscal and balance of payments crisis will trigger a run on sterling as the domestic economy starts growing; the deficits will be cut through inflation, instead of economic growth. That has been the British way.

By failing to give the economy a big monetary boost this month, ministers thought they were being prudent but as the borrowing figures keep climbing, Mr Major will realise that refusing to "kick start" the recovery with much lower interest rates was the biggest gamble he could possibly take.

the reason why...



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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Last call for phone rivals

STAR banking analyst John Tyce, who was laid off by Nomura, has been snapped up by Société Générale Strauss Turnbull Tyce, long ranked as one of the top banking analysts, will report to Paul Diggle, head of research. "We have been interviewing people for that job for three years and it has taken us until now to find the right person," says Julian Burn-Callander, head of sales. This will be the second time Tyce and Diggle have worked together. They were once colleagues at Laing & Cruck, shank. It will not, however, be entirely plain sailing for Tyce, for one of his other colleagues at Strauss will be his near-namesake John Tyce, the firm's telecommunications and electronics analyst. Tyce says he is delighted by Tyce's appointment, since it means a playful battle between the two of them will cease. Each has received telephone calls intended for the other. "But he is more devious than me," Tyce says. "He told me that when



he received my calls he always said he was busy and would call back. I vowed I would do the same to him, but have yet to receive another call."

McNeill over here

WAVING a cheerful goodbye to Wertheim Schröder, Debbie McNeill, an American saleswoman, has started work at Salomon's US equity desk in London. McNeill, 12 years with Drexel on Wall Street un-

til the bank's collapse in 1990,

was given the chance to fulfil her ambitions by Wertheim—switching from research to sales and moving to London—but has been snapped up by Salomon. "I'm grateful to Wertheim, but Salomon has a bigger desk and I think the move will improve my book," says McNeill. She claims she cannot imagine returning to New York. "I've got a flat in Charterhouse Square and I feel like a real Londoner."

On a Swiss roll

RICHARD Williamson, ex-Warburg, County NatWest and Williams de Broe, has resurfaced in the City and switched sides. Williamson, 34, has become a fund manager with Pictet, a Geneva-based investment firm. Pictet is a Huguenot bank founded in 1805 and run as a partnership. Williamson will be based in London, but spend two or three days a week in Geneva. "I am wearing two hats," he explains. "I advise the bank in Geneva on UK stock selection and market trends in UK equities, and in London I run some money myself."

Mr Deceiver

IAN McIsaac, the Touche Ross partner responsible for corporate reconstruction work—"We get hold of companies which have financial problems, but not terminal ones, and work with the banks"—treasures one letter above any other. McIsaac, 47, received it about ten years ago, after becoming the receiver to Orley Printing. He negotiated to sell one of Orley's 17 plants, Carlisle Webb Offset, to the late Robert Maxwell. Maxwell held back on the final payment tranche—"a few hundred thousand"—hoping to pay for it out of earnings once the company was his, but McIsaac thwarted him by paying himself directly out of money received by Carlisle. "The company was still mine and so I took what I was owed," he explains. Maxwell penned an irate letter to McIsaac, addressing him as "Yours Deceivably". "Every time he saw me thereafter, he greeted me as Mr Deceiver," McIsaac recalls.

CAROL LEONARD

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **Cartoons** (615615)
- 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** with Chris Evans and Gabby Rixon (74410)
- 9.00 **You Bet Your Life**. Quiz hosted by Bill Costley (s) (85968)
- 9.30 **News** (469410)
- 12.00 **Right to Reply**. Viewers Tracy Moore presents a humorous view of death in television soaps and there is a review of the *Cutting Edge* documentary on the World of Locks (s) (Teletext) (s) (65101)
- 12.30 **Besame Street**. Early learning series (S2435)
- 1.30 **Dr Snuggles**. Cartoon fun (r) (16323)
- 2.00 **Film**: About Mrs Leslie (1954, b/w). Pleasing romantic drama starring Shirley Booth, who died last month, as the owner of a boarding house who recalls her wartime romance with a wealthy man. With Robert Ryan. Directed by Daniel Mann (101255)
- 3.55 **Vacuum Cleaner**. Animation (S238149)
- 4.00 **Spice of Trees**. Tree-throwing in Britain (r). (Teletext) (588)
- 4.30 **Fifteen to One**. William G. Stewart hosts the quiz-free quiz (s) (472)
- 5.00 **The Late Late Show**. Entertainment from Dublin (s) (9101)
- 6.00 **Streetwise**. Drama series about a team of London bicycle couriers. Owen (Andy Serkis) meets an old friend (r). (Teletext) (905)
- 6.30 **The World's Worst Years**. Kevin (Fred Savage) is caught stealing at school (r) (217)
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jan Snow (Televised) Weather (156491)
- 7.50 **Comment**. Peter Phillips argues that Britain's transport system is desperately under-funded (563685)
- 8.00 **Brookside**. Merseyside soap. (Teletext) (s) (6878)
- 8.30 **Desmond**. The bus conductor who lives in a Peckham barber shop. Slipping Nipper Soap. (Teletext) (s) (5385)



Heart to heart: Vera meets her son Terry in prison (7-30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street. Vera Duckworth visits son Terry in prison. With Elizabeth Dawn and Nigel Pavaro. (Cracle) (859)

8.00 Strike It Lucky. Michael Barrymore teases six more contestants as they battle it out for the £5,000 jackpot. (836)

8.30 World in Action. The first of two parts. An investigation into allegations that a minority of politicians in Britain have been dealing in drugs while others have played evidence resulting in the conviction of innocent people. (7745)

9.00 The Life and Times of Henry Pratt. Third of a four-part comedy drama from David Nobbs, the creator of *The Fall and Rise of Reginald Perrin*. Henry Pratt, a young man about the money classed and homosexuality at public school, but girls are still suave. With Jack Dearn. (Cracle) (7728)

9.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald. (Cracle) Weather (7568)

10.30 Thames News (825101)

10.40 Film: The Challenge (1982). Patchy martial arts thriller starring Scott Glenn as an American boxer who becomes involved in a crime syndicate. From two to two. With Toshiro Mifune. Directed by John Frankenheimer. (7428078)

11.00 Entertainment UK (8557786) **1.10 Sport AM.** European football and Heineken League ice hockey. (8050250)

11.40 Film: Not Over My Dead Body (1980). Heavy-handed French comedy, with English dialogue, about an actor who is mistaken for a Mafia hit man. Starring Pierre Richard and Geri Frobe, the villain in *Killings* (see below). (7745)

12.30 James Brown. The godfather of soul in concert. (1) (79786)

12.30 ITN Early Morning News (28521). Ends at 6.00

Disobeying: Barbara Gregory seeks her children (9.00pm)

9.00 Cutting Edge: Let Me See My Children
● CHOICE: It is estimated that more than 1,200 children are abducted from Britain each year and this disturbing film is the story of two of them. Barbara Gregory met her Spanish husband while on holiday on Majorca. When the marriage broke up she was given custody of the children, with the father granted access. In August 1993 she took them to Spain to start with their former husband in Spain and did not see them again. Although education is covered under the Hague Convention, the Spanish authorities have been reluctant to meet their obligations and Barbara has been forced into a long, costly and emotionally draining legal battle to get her children back. The film follows Barbara to Spain as she tries to get redress through the police and courts and visits the children's Spanish legal attorney in Madrid (focus 1c) (14/0)

0.00 A Bit of a Do: The Farewell Party Ted's (David Jason) leaving do is accompanied by champagne, caviar and the requisite disaster. With Gwen Taylor and Nicola Pagett (r), (Teletext) (18/97)

1.00 Catholics and Sex
● CHOICE: A provocative title heralds a four-part series exploring attitudes within the Roman Catholic Church on such doctrinally contentious subjects as contraception, homosexuality and abortion. The premise is that when it comes to sex, the church is mostly against it, except to create babies. Tonight's discussion is about celibate priests. It is mainly a rehearsal of familiar arguments, conducted in a measured and low-key way. Even the writer Frank Delaney, one of the more critical voices, is prepared to be mollified. The series part one, which opens tonight, only becomes more relevant in the Middle Ages and appears to have a shaky biblical justification. But no one is questioned about this and nor is there reference to priests who have left the church because they found celibacy an impossible burden (61/94)

2.00 Film: Archipelago (1991). The *Latin American Cinema* season continues with this Chilean drama. An architect escapes to a remote archipelago after he witnesses the indiscriminate slaughter of protesters at a political demonstration. He is hunted by the Chilean secret services. Starring Hector Noguera. Directed by Pablo Perelman (1888/17). Ends at 1.25am

als (9491) 4.30 Football
wing (28149) 7.30 Rally

[illegible]

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7.00 Loose Ends: Billie Holiday; 8.00 Classic FM Concert: Berlin PQ under Levine performs Berlioz (Overture, Venetian Carnival); Schumann (Symphony No 2) 10.00 Adrian Love 1.00-5.00am André Leon

The £1000 fine is only applicable in Great Britain

All pits notified of possible redundancies

By JON ASHWORTH
AND ROSS TIEMAN

BRITISH Coal has notified union representatives at all its 50 pits, including the 19 previously thought safe from closure, that redundancies may be declared at some point in the future. However, the company is playing down talk of further mass redundancies.

It has sent the warnings to comply with employment legislation that requires unions to be notified if there is even the slightest hint of future redundancies. British Coal is anxious to play down the significance of the move, but has tacitly admitted that further cuts are being considered.

A spokesman said: "What we've done, to be meticulous, is to send forms to all workplaces, even those where, at present, no redundancies are planned but there is a possibility that, at some future date, jobs may go."

Meanwhile, a study by the British Association of Colliery Management says that a cost-cutting drive to take advantage of sterling's devaluation would enable many threatened pits to be saved. Twenty-eight pits could produce coal at 120p a gigajoule, a price now likely to undercut the cost of bulk imports.

The findings support many conclusions of an unpublished study for the government by John Boyd, the American mining consultant. That predicted production costs as low

■ British Coal has notified union representatives at all its 50 pits of possible future redundancies, despite a survey showing many pits may now be economic

as 115p a gigajoule. More than 4,000 voluntary redundancies have been announced in the past three weeks.

Compulsory redundancies have been ruled out until January at the earliest when a review on prospects for the pits is due to be completed. The government commissioned the review to examine the 19 pits British Coal plans to keep open and look at prospects for the 21 pits that were granted a stay of execution after the outcry over the closure plans.

British Coal said: "We can't rule out the possibility of some redundancies at other collieries at the end of the day, but there is no hidden agenda. Nobody is talking about getting rid of 50,000 mining jobs, but the review will determine the action to be taken."

Ministers were told in January that half the 31 pits earmarked for closure could become viable in the next three to four years, according to the mining consultants conducting the review.

Taken together, the production studies provide convincing evidence that a larger coal industry than that now contemplated could be economically viable. A more competitive industry could sell more

by undercutting threatened imports, while removal of unfair competition from nuclear power and gas could further expand coal's market. They also suggest that British Coal is being unambitious over squeezing out imports.

Neil Clarke, British Coal's chairman, acknowledged at the weekend that productivity had risen by 16 per cent in the past 12 months, adding "we know there is more to come".

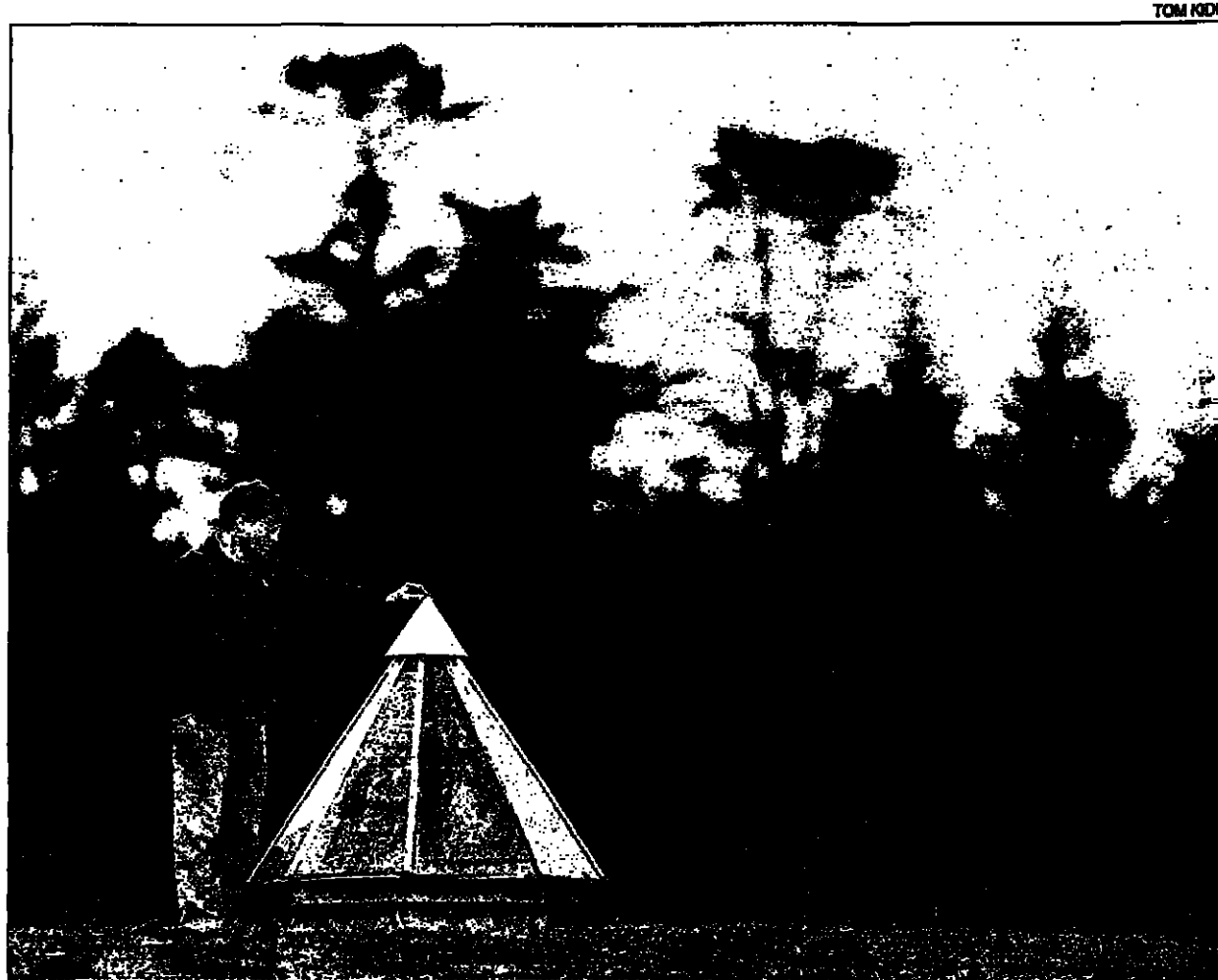
British Coal has offered to supply the power generators with coal at 151p a gigajoule from next April. Yet its target five years hence seems to be a further price cut of just 12.5 per cent, to 133p, the price at which it can match the cost of imports supplied to inland power stations.

That would leave British Coal with only a limited market, but if cost savings were realised, there would be fat profits to carry it through into privatisation. A copy of what appears to be the executive summary of the Boyd report has been obtained by *The Times*. It has also been examined by officials of the colliery management association.

Although the managers doubt the practicability of some Boyd recommendations, they agree that further substantial productivity gains and cost reductions might be achieved. Doug Bulmer, the association president, said: "We estimate that 40 million tonnes, roughly equivalent to the output of 28 pits, could be produced at an average operating cost of 120p gigajoule."

The Boyd report suggests that with changes in working practices and investment of £300 million, the 28 pits could raise output from 37 to 47 million tonnes a year while cutting employee numbers by some 6,000, to about 22,000.

It proposes changes to allow longer working shifts where miners have extended distances to travel underground, and transfer of more power to colliery managers and coalface supervisors.



Going for growth: businesses and jobs may be at stake in the debate between small businessmen and the banks upon whose lending they de-

pend. Alex McIntyre found that, when problems arose with his Backwoodsmen company, which makes mini-greenhouses in the Western High-

lands, his bank could hardly tell the wood from trees, financially speaking.

Banking by the book, page 37

Markets open to ERM realignment

Irish and Danes to come under fire

By COLIN NARBROUGH AND WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

MARKET pressure is set to intensify today for a devaluation of the Irish punt and the Danish krone after the weekend decision to lower the value of the Iberian currencies by 6 per cent. Without any sign of a relaxation of German monetary policy, tensions within the exchange-rate mechanism persist and could undermine it.

The French rejection of the compromise deal on Friday to end the transatlantic dispute over oil seed production could also focus market attention on the franc again, despite its successful defence in September. If there is fresh turbulence over the franc, analysts think the whole ERM could be in jeopardy. Sterling should not be greatly affected by the latest upheaval, analysts said. Since its exit from the ERM in Sep-

tember, Britain has largely been isolated from the problems of the tensions in the system, they added. "There are no UK implications," said Ruth Lea, chief economist at Mitsubishi Bank. She said Britain would wait before sanctioning more rate cuts because it is nervous of sterling losing too much ground.

The ERM realignment, the third this year, might not be the last, and could possibly be followed by two further adjustments before Christmas. Apart from an imminent devaluation threat to the krone and the punt, there is also the possibility that Italy wants to re-enter the ERM, after the lira was suspended on Black Wednesday, September 16, with sterling.

While yesterday's realign-

ment constitutes a further relaxation of tensions, which have built up since January 1987, the last ERM realignment before the cataclysmic events this autumn, it will do little to solve a disagreement between France and Germany over the rate at which the lira should eventually re-enter.

The future central rate for the lira is a subject of intense controversy. France is concerned over the competitive effects of a lower lira and the prospect of being swamped by cheap Italian industrial and agricultural imports. The Bundesbank is less concerned about Italian imports than the cost of support operations for weak ERM currencies and would prefer a low lira value. Since Black Wednesday, the lira depreciated by about 13

per cent against the mark, closing on Friday at L863.3.

Paul Chertkow, head of global strategy at UBS Phillips & Drew, said the weekend realignment, the third the ERM had undertaken since September, was just "another piecemeal effort". While the 6 per cent peseta devaluation and a pledge to remove Spain's capital controls were probably sufficient for Spain, he saw the escudo move as inadequate. The absence of any signals for lower German interest rates would leave ERM tensions unaddressed.

Barclays likely to cut 3,000 more jobs

By JON ASHWORTH

BARCLAYS Bank is expected to announce a further 3,000 redundancies today, as part of a continuing rationalisation programme that will see 450 mainly suburban branches close in the next three years.

Most of the cuts, which follow a period of unprecedented blood-letting in the banking sector, will take place at an administrative level. Barclays plans to close 150 branches a year over the next three years. The bank has closed 120 branches so far this year, and shut 110 in 1991.

Staff are expected to be informed of the redundancies today. The latest cuts are in addition to the 15,000 job losses announced previously. Nearly half the cuts will be completed this year, leaving a further 9,000 jobs to go by 1995.

The Banking, Insurance and Finance Union says that a further 25,000 jobs in the finance sector are at risk. A spokesman said banking staff were paying for the price of excessive savings in the 1980s. He said: "There is job carnage going on in the high street. Seventy thousand jobs have been lost in three years and 1,000 branches have closed."

Royal Bank of Scotland announced 3,500 redundancies on Thursday. A slump in demand for second-hand car loans prompted 400 job cuts at Lombard North Central, the finance house subsidiary of National Westminster Bank. NatWest expects to have shed more than 5,000 jobs this year in the wake of the closure of 107 branches.

Talk of accelerated cuts at Barclays surfaced last week when Andrew Buxton, chief executive, announced plans for a more focused strategy. High street branches were to be closed at a "significantly" faster pace than the present 100 a year and Barclays' American operations were being reorganised to concentrate on investment banking.

Lamont to run bigger deficit than Labour

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE government deficits announced by Norman Lamont in his Autumn Statement will be far bigger in relation to the economy than those that forced the Labour government to cede control of British economic policy to the International Monetary Fund in 1976. By 1994, Britain will probably overtake Italy as Europe's biggest borrower.

Mr Lamont has denied that his deficits would exceed those of the last Labour government. But a study by *The*

Times, based on internationally accepted standards of public accounting, presents a different picture. According to Treasury projections from the Autumn Statement, Britain's general government financial deficit will be 7 per cent of GDP this year and 8 per cent in 1993-4.

The biggest general government deficit under a Labour government was 4.9 per cent in 1976.

Economic View, page 38



SECTION 13, WATER INDUSTRY ACT 1991

Proposal by the Director General of Water Services
for the modification of Condition N
of the Instrument of Appointment of each of the
Appointed Water and Water and Sewerage Companies
in England and Wales.

The reasons for the proposed modifications:

1. The water and sewerage companies have to pay fees every year, to the Secretaries of State for the Environment and Wales, to cover the costs which the Director General of Water Services incurs in carrying out his duties. Condition N of the companies' Licence places limits on the fees which the Director may collect.

2. The Director is seeking the consent of the companies to a change in how those limits are set because of two problems with the current arrangements.

First the normal limits are based on the turnover of the companies in 1987-88. This baseline is now out of date and means that he cannot allocate fees fairly between the companies relative to their current turnover.

Second the additional costs which he incurs in reviewing the companies'

price caps. A Periodic Review, can only be recovered in one year at the end of a five year cycle. In practice these additional costs are spread over a number of years.

The effect of the changes:

3. There would be no increase in the total of the fees which the Director can collect. The changes would merely alter how the fees were allocated. First they would relate the normal limits to current turnover. Second they would allow the Director to recover the costs of a Periodic Review in the same year that he incurs those costs.

4. Any representation about, or objections to, these proposals should be in writing, addressed to the Director General of Water Services, Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham B5 4UA, to be received by him no later than 5pm on Monday, 21 December 1992.

Rates of peseta and escudo cut

THE text of the official statement was as follows: The ministers and central bank governors of the member states of the European Community have by mutual agreement, following a common procedure involving the commission and after consultation with the monetary committee, decided to fix new central rates in the European Monetary System.

The bilateral central rates of the Spanish peseta and the Portuguese escudo against the other currencies of the exchange-rate mechanism have been reduced by 6 per cent.

The Spanish and Portuguese governments will implement strictly all the measures necessary to ensure that the objectives of their convergence programmes are achieved. The Spanish government will

immediately lift the special measures on some foreign exchange transactions which it recently imposed. It will give the highest priority to meeting the budgetary targets and implementing the structural measures laid down in the convergence programme. The

Central rates against the ecu	
Belgian franc	40.6304
Danish crown	7.51410
Deutschmark	1.93622
Peseta	163.386
French franc	6.55953
Irish punt	0.783334
Luxembourg franc	40.6304
Dutch guilder	2.21858
Escudo	182.194
Lira	0.806748
* POUND	254.254
* Drachma	254.254

(* national central rates, based on market rates of November 22)

ministers and governors draw the attention of the two governments to the vital importance of restraint on the growth of labour costs.

Member states whose currencies are in the exchange-rate mechanism will implement their economic and monetary policies in such a way as to improve their convergence on price stability and ensure the stability of their currencies within the parity grid. The agrimonetary consequences of the present realignment will be examined by the competent bodies.

The new bilateral central rates and the compulsory intervention points in the exchange-rate mechanism will be communicated by the central banks in time for the opening of foreign exchange markets on November 23.

Dissident investors aim to sour Sugar's Amstrad bid

By ANGELA MACKAY

ALAN Sugar, architect of a £113 million bid for Amstrad, the company he founded and chairs, will confront scores of irate shareholders at the computer group's annual meeting at the Tower Hotel in London tomorrow.

Gathered under the banner of the Amstrad Shareholders' Club, a group of dissident shareholders, led by Gideon Flegal, is expected to grill Mr Sugar about his plans for taking Amstrad private without paying close to the 46p a share net asset value that the company is worth, and question him about using £50 million of company cash to help fund the bid.

Mr Flegal has said he now speaks for some 25 million shares, or just over 4 per cent of Amstrad, but he must obtain proxies for 94 million shares by December 10 to defeat the bid.

So far, Postel, a holder of



Sugar: under attack

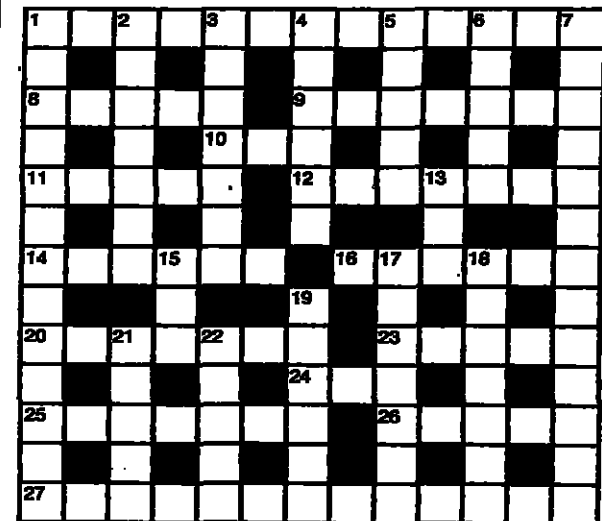
company's merchant bank, advising Mr Sugar as well, but he was told such a move was perfectly proper. A legal challenge against the bid is also being examined.

Mr Sugar, who is not allowed to vote his 35 per cent of the company, is adamant that the shareholders are confused by the complexity of the transaction. Over the weekend, he said that his £50 million loan from Amstrad's cash reserves is only triggered by shareholder approval.

The rest of Mr Sugar's funding is mostly from a £43 million loan from Lloyds Bank, which is also one of Amstrad's banks. Mr Sugar has pledged his 46 per cent stake in Tottenham Hotspur, the football club he chairs, as part collateral against the loan.

Mr Sugar says Kleinwort Benson tried to find a buyer for the company, canvassing GEC, STC, Cable and Wireless and others, but there were no takers.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2952



- ACROSS: 1 Property debts seizure (13); 2 Lions group (5); 3 Oxford University member (7); 10 In what way (3); 11 Relative proportion (5); 12 Hearing range (7); 14 Lab burner (6); 16 Cows (6); 20 Aircraft pod (7); 23 Lived (5); 24 Leaching solution (3); 25 Parachute supply (7); 26 Heavy Burgundy (5).
- DOWN: 27 Transferable (13); 1 Very plentiful (13); 2 Quail (7); 3 Peephole (7); 4 Bricklayer's tool (6); 5 Lover (5); 6 Whiskey cream coffee (5); 7 Absence (3,10); 13 Drunkard (3); 15 Take to court (3); 17 Try (7); 18 Cab (7); 19 Parussus oracle (6); 21 Papal court (5); 22 MCC HQ (5).

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2951

- ACROSS: 1 Telltale 5 Arms 9 Rations 10 Roger 11 Jeep 12 Leshom 14 Quarry 16 Stepple 17 Tidier 18 Flower 20 Rotor 25 Warrior 26 Nick 27 Dripfeed

- DOWN: 1 Tam 2 Liche 3 Trooper 4 Lastly 6 Re-group 7 Stranger 8 Gros 13 Squadron 15 Ascoric 17 Tidier 18 Flower 20 Rotor 25 Warrior 26 Nick 27 Dripfeed

By RAYMOND KEENE, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Zaitovskiy - Penkovskiy, Russian 1990. The key to this position is the lineup of the black bishops which are powerfully placed on the long diagonals leading to the white king. Black exploited this with a fantastic combination. Can you see it?

Solution on page 35

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software for beginners or experts, (runs on most PCs), telephone Alton Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hours) or call CDS Doncaster on 0502 890 000. Postage (free until Christmas) applies UK only.

By PHILIP HOWARD

- EPONYMS
HOBDAV
a. A pagan holiday
b. A limited offer from a Cambridge carrier
c. An operation on horse wind
TILBURY
a. A rain hat

- b. A sword stick
c. A gig
PEMBROKE
a. A type of marriage
b. A strength
c. A drop-leaf table
COLLINS
a. An alcoholic drink
b. An ailment
c. A thank-you letter

Answers on page 35